

مركز امتحان الامم المتحدة



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political newspaper published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جورديان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة المنشورة بالمؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

U.N. envoy returns to Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — A special U.N. envoy arrived in Israel Tuesday in his second attempt to win Israeli concessions on the 415 Palestinians expelled to South Lebanon. "I have come to make one more final attempt," said the envoy, Chaima Gharekhan, after his arrival. Asked whether he had hopes for a breakthrough, Mr. Gharekhan said: "We'll find out." Mr. Gharekhan noted that he was sent on his second mission after U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali met last week with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and discussed the issue by phone with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. The U.N. Security Council has demanded that the Palestinians be repatriated, and Dr. Ghali has hinted he would push for sanctions if Israel did not show flexibility. Mr. Rabin Sunday told visiting Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa that Israel would not reverse its decision on the evictees. However, Mr. Peres told Mr. Musa that Israel was ready to make more "humanitarian" gestures. Last week, Israel agreed in principle to permit the International Red Cross access to the camp. Israel initially had refused to let aid pass through its lines, arguing the men were Lebanon's responsibility. Mr. Gharekhan was to meet with Mr. Peres and Mr. Rabin. His visit, the third by a U.N. envoy in a month, coincides with supreme court hearings on the legality of the expulsions. The high court was to reconvene Wednesday.

Assad, Demirel discuss water, security

DAMASCUS (AP) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel discussed ways Tuesday to resolve differences over water sharing and security issues. Their meeting, which lasted more than one hour, also was attended by Syrian Prime Minister Mahmoud Al Zoubi, Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa and the ministers of economy, irrigation and agriculture. The Turkish side included Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin and other senior officials. Diplomatic sources said Ankara and Damascus were especially concerned about the situation in northern Iraq, where the United States and its allies have declared a "no-fly" zone. On the issue of water, Syria hopes to persuade Mr. Demirel to conclude a new Syrian-Iraqi-Turkish agreement for the sharing of the water from the Euphrates River. Experts from the three countries held five days of talks last October over dividing the waters of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, but reached no agreement.

Volume 17 Number 5212

AMMAN WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 1993, RAJAB 27, 1413

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

4 Jordanians hurt in Baghdad

AMMAN (Petra) — Four Jordanian citizens were injured as a result of the missile attack on Baghdad Sunday, a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry said. Khalid Abdul Munim Daoud, Nidal Mohammad Joudeh and Mawlood Mamdouh were now in good condition while Amjad Tadrous, left hospital after being treated from his injury, the spokesman said.

Spanish minister arrives today

AMMAN (Petra) — Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs Javier Solana arrives here Wednesday on a three-day official visit to Jordan for talks with Jordanian officials on bilateral relations and developments in the Middle East, particularly the peace process and Spain's role within the European Community.

Guerrillas shell Israeli allies

MARIYAYOUN, Lebanon (R) — Guerrillas shelled post for Israel's militia ally in the Jewish state's South Lebanon "security zone" Tuesday, security sources said. They said at least three artillery shells slammed near a South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia post in Nabi Taher hill on the edge of the "security zone" but no-one was hurt. SLA artillery fired back at the source of the firing in hills where guerrillas are active.

Shevardnadze visits Iran

NICOSIA, CYPRUS (AP) — Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of Georgia's State Council of Ministers, arrived Tuesday in Tehran and said he hoped his visit would build closer ties with Iran, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported. Mr. Shevardnadze, who became well known as the foreign minister of the former Soviet Union, was met at Mehrabad airport by Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani. IRNA said. The leader of the former Soviet republic said on arrival that his two-day visit would set the stage for closer cooperation between his country and Iran, the agency said.

Senate panel okays Christopher

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate Foreign Relations Committee Tuesday approved the nomination of Warren Christopher as secretary of state in President-elect Bill Clinton's administration. By a 19-0 vote, the panel referred the nomination to the full Senate, which is expected to give its approval Wednesday, shortly after Mr. Clinton is inaugurated.

Rockets pound Kabul

KABUL (R) — Radical government opponents fired more than 30 rockets into Kabul Tuesday, killing at least three people and wounding 25, Afghan government officials said. The officials blamed the Hezb-e-Islami party of hardline Mujahideen leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar for the third consecutive day of rocket barrages. The officials launched a sweep to clear government opponents from the capital's outskirts. Residential districts and areas around the presidential palace in central Kabul and near the airport were hit, an official said.

Kohl names banker to economic post

BONN (R) — German Chancellor Helmut Kohl appointed ex-banker Guenter Rexrodt as economics minister in a cabinet reshuffle Tuesday. He succeeds Jaergen Moellmann, who quit over an influence-peddling scandal.

Turkish avalanche toll reaches 53

ANKARA (R) — Rescuers have recovered 53 bodies from the snow in avalanche-hit Ozenkiler village in northeastern Turkey, the semi-official Anatolia news agency said Tuesday. It said three villagers were believed still trapped under homes crushed by the snowslide which engulfed most of the bayburt province village Monday. Twenty-one injured people have been rescued.

Iraq offers unilateral ceasefire

Baghdad describes conditional move as aimed at dialogue; Pentagon, reporting continued skirmishes and moving more firepower, sees 'helpful sign'; Ghali proposes Kuwait force

Russian note describes raids as out of proportion

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQ TUESDAY announced a unilateral ceasefire in the "no-fly" zones patrolled by allied aircraft and the Pentagon said the announcement was a "helpful sign."

The ruling Revolutionary Command Council (RCC) headed by President Saddam Hussein said that beginning at 8 a.m. Wednesday there would be no more attacks on U.S., French or British planes because of the pending inauguration of President-elect Bill Clinton.

"The RCC decided the ceasefire beginning Wednesday morning as a gesture of goodwill towards the Clinton administration

and through him the American people," the RCC said in a statement.

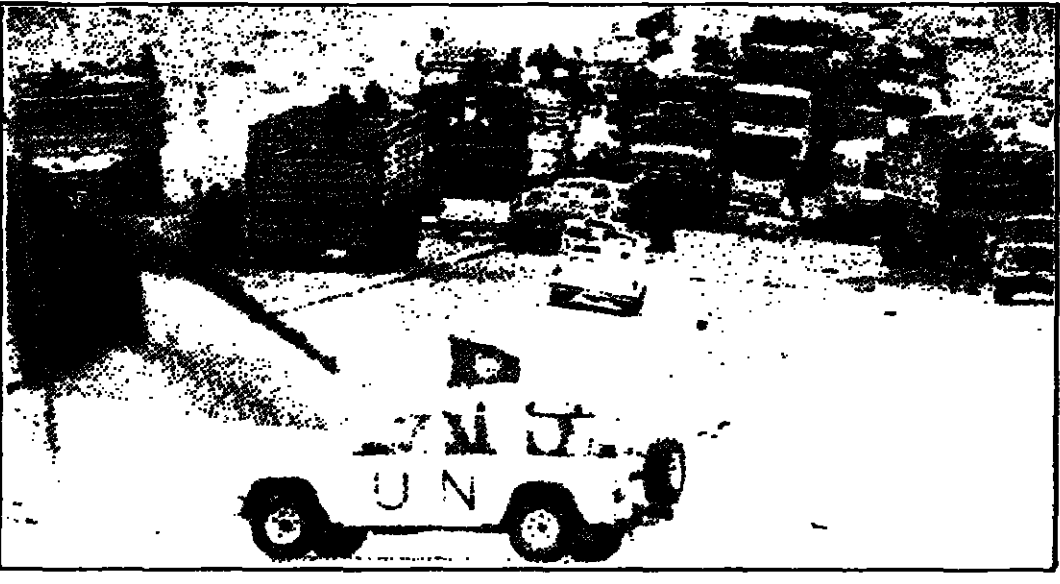
The council said Iraq was also making the offer "to give the new administration time to establish a constructive dialogue."

The United States attacked military targets in northern Iraq Tuesday, the fourth day of attacks in less than a week.

An Iraqi military spokesman quoted by the television said three people were killed in the attacks Tuesday, bringing the death toll from the raids up to 45.

At about 10:40 a.m. (0740 GMT), an F-4G Wild Weasel fired a missile at a surface-to-air

(Continued on page 5)



A U.N. patrol passes a convoy of Iraqi and Palestinian deportees in the U.N. militarized zone at the Kuwait-Iraqi border defined by the U.N. waiting to be resettled as they have been ousted from Kuwait (AFP photo)

Disquiet grows among Gulf allies

Combined agency dispatches

ALLIED DISQUIET over renewed U.S.-led military strikes on Iraq burst into the open Tuesday when Italy said anyone with common sense would be concerned about the civilian casualties.

There were growing signs of unease elsewhere, notably in key allies France and Britain. Russia expressed concern about civilian casualties and said the raids were out of proportion.

It said a U.N. Security Council meeting was warranted. Arab countries in particular are upset by the bloodshed, and are growing weary of the campaign to

make Iraq toe the line on U.N. resolutions. But their governments have remained mostly silent.

In Washington, speaking as U.S. defence sources reported an American warplane had struck again Tuesday in Iraq's north, sought to play down the emerging divisions among allies that drove Iraqi forces out of Kuwait in 1991.

But coalition member Italy left no doubt about its concern. "We are worried about this military escalation and have expressed our feelings," Defence Minister Salvo Ando told reporters in Rome.

(Continued on page 5)

Settlers kill 12-year-old in Gaza

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli settlers shot dead a 12-year-old Palestinian boy when they opened fire on demonstrators who stoned their car in the occupied Gaza Strip Tuesday. Arabs and military sources said.

Palestinians said Jewish settlers opened fire from a car on a road often used by Israelis travelling through the Gaza Strip. They said the boy, Liwa Bakron, was shot through the heart.

Israeli military sources said the incident shooting took place at Sajaiye neighbourhood in Gaza City. An initial investigation showed the boy was among a group of youngsters who stoned the vehicle.

Israelis have shot dead five children under the age of 15 in the Gaza Strip since last Thursday.

Settlers frequently fired on Palestinian stone-throwers in the early days of the five-year-old revolt against Israeli rule. But Palestinians said there had not been many shootings by settlers in the last few months.

In the West Bank town of Beit Sahour, Palestinians shot and seriously wounded an Israeli security guard escorting a petrol tanker truck in an apparent ambush, military sources said.

The army imposed a curfew on the town and began searching for the attackers who shot the guard at a petrol station near Beth-

lehem. Soldiers also clamped a curfew on Beit Sahour, radio stations said.

Radio reports said the attack was at 7:45 a.m. (0545 GMT), when the tanker arrived at the station to deliver gas. The Israeli guarding the truck, an armed civilian, was shot in the head and taken to a local hospital for treatment, army radio said.

Israeli Radio said the assailant also took the guard's gun. It said the guard worked for a watchman's company owned by a former army colonel, Yehuda Meir, who was demoted in April 1991 as punishment for ordering Palestinian detainees to be beaten.

Clinton settles on foreign appointees

WASHINGTON (AP) — President-elect Bill Clinton has settled on nearly a dozen picks to fill out his foreign policy team, asking officials responsible for Iraq policy and Middle East peace talks to stay on, officials said.

The appointments signal Mr. Clinton's intention of closely following President George Bush's hardline against Iraq and his hope for continuity and progress in Middle East peace efforts, the officials said.

They come at a time some officials, including Defence Secretary Dick Cheney, have complained that the president-elect has been slow in filling major defence and foreign policy posts.

Edward Djerejian, the assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Eastern affairs, will stay on in his position, which includes responsibility for Iraq policy, said the officials.

And they said Dennis Ross, a top State Department aide, will be retained as a senior State Department consultant. Mr. Ross has day-to-day responsibility for overseeing the Middle East peace talks.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, the officials also said Peter Tarnoff, President of the Council of Foreign Relations, would be named under-secretary of state for political affairs and Joan E. Spiro, currently a top official at American Express Company, as under-secretary for economic affairs.

Former Colorado Senator Tim Wirth was to be named to the

(Continued on page 5)

League implicitly criticises Kuwait

Americans deploy Patriot missiles in emirate

CAIRO (Agencies) — In what may be an admonition to Kuwait, the Arab League's top executive said Tuesday that any new foreign troop deployment along the Iraq-Kuwait border must be sanctioned by the U.N. Security Council.

Esmat Abdul Meguid, secretary general of the Cairo-based 21-member Arab League, appeared to be reacting to a reported Kuwaiti government request for British and French forces to be stationed along its border with Iraq.

Dr. Abdul Meguid, a former Egyptian foreign minister, also said his organisation had offered to mediate Kuwaiti-Iraqi differences and was awaiting replies from the two countries.

Egypt's government-owned Middle East News Agency (MENA) carried what it described as a "special statement" from Dr. Abdul Meguid.

"The dispatch of new forces by the United Nations for service in the buffer zone between Iraq and Kuwait must be done through the Security Council," Dr. Abdul Meguid said. "There should be a resolution to this effect defining the nature of the work of such forces."

He did not mention the Kuwaiti request to Britain and France.

Kuwaiti newspapers Monday quoted Defence Minister Sheikh Ali Al Sabah as saying British and French troops would help safeguard the 200-kilometre bor-

der in line with defence pacts his country signed with the two Western powers last year. Kuwait has a similar accord with the United States.

In offering the Arab League as mediator between Kuwait and Iraq, Dr. Abdul Meguid said: "Resolving inter-Arab disputes through the Arab League is the best way to avoid escalations that would unduly exacerbate such disputes."

Efforts by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and other Arab leaders to end the Kuwait crisis at a summit conference in Cairo on Aug. 10, 1990 failed.

In his statement to the agency, Dr. Abdul Meguid echoed an

(Continued on page 3)

First U.S. troops leave Somalia; more to follow

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — The first unit of U.S. Marines left Somalia for home Tuesday after handing over their duties in the famine-stricken southern town of Baidoa to Australian replacements.

A group of 237 troops packed their bags, handed over live ammunition rounds, and flew out of Mogadishu airport for March Air Force Base in southern California.

"You did like you always do a first class job," Major General Charles Wilhelm, commander of U.S. forces in Mogadishu, said in a brief farewell address.

The Marines were part of a 24,000-strong U.S. force spearheading Operation Restore Hope, a multinational humanitarian effort to stop the looting of famine relief supplies by gunmen.

A U.S. military spokesman

said a second group of 375 Marines was to leave later Tuesday. Two more flights would leave on Wednesday until the entire 900-strong unit had been replaced.

Washington is describing the homecoming as a redeployment and says it does not herald the start of a wind-down of U.S. forces in the broken Horn of Africa country.

Military sources say the overall level of U.S. forces was likely to remain unchanged for some considerable time, but that combat troops would be replaced by logistical support units as Operation Restore Hope moves into a second phase.

The U.S.-led force, now numbering a total of 36,000 men from 20 countries, has secured Somalia's towns, airports and ports, and escorted food convoys

U.S. report critical of Israel

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The U.S. State Department Tuesday released a report critical of Israeli practices within the Jewish state as well as the occupied territories.

The report, issued annually by the department, also said Serbian forces in Bosnia were conducting a campaign of calculated cruelty against Muslims that "dwarfs anything seen in Europe since Nazi times."

In Israel, a parliamentary democracy with a multi-party political system and free elections, Arab citizens do not share fully in the rights granted to Jews, the report said.

In the "occupied territories," it said, Israeli security forces killed

(Continued on page 3)

Expulsion and peace talks pose critical challenge to PLO

By Mariam M. Shabih
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Of all the crises faced by the Palestinian leadership since the beginning of the Arab-Israeli peace talks in Madrid in the fall of 1991 the expulsion of 415 Palestinians from the occupied territories last month may prove to be the most critical.

The majority of the PLO leadership, the Damascus-based Palestinian hardliners and the negotiators themselves have linked the issue of the expelled Palestinians to the fate of Palestinian participation in the peace talks.

There has been wide-spread talk of boycotting the next round of talks, but nothing is seen as certain yet.

Only a small minority of

Palestinian officials, namely the kitchen cabinet led by Yasser Arafat adviser Nabil Shaath, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee member Mahmoud Abbas and the now Yenfa-based Bassam Abu Sherif, believe that a linkage between the expelled and the peace talks is "not necessary."

While the kitchen cabinet is known among PLO insiders as the "American lobby," it is unlikely that their view will prevail at this juncture of the peace talks, most PLO officials believe.

Palestine Central Council (PCC) member Ibrahim Abu Ayash said that the Palestinians "can't go to the next round if 'absolutely' nothing is done about the expelled."

"Some speak of concession

will have to be made either by the Israelis or the United Nations, otherwise the Palestinian delegation will not be able to go," Mr. Abu Ayash said.

Chief Palestinian negotiator Haidar Abdul Shafi and delegates Ghasan Khatib, Samir Abdullah, Zakaria Agha and Elias Freij have all said that they would not attend the next round of bilateral talks if the fate of the expelled Palestinians is not satisfactorily addressed.

PLO officials say that a boycott by the four Arab participants in the bilateral talks would put more significant pressure on Israel to comply with U.N. Security Council Resolution 799 and return the expelled Palestinians.

Without a united Arab stand on this issue, PLO executives

say a lone Palestinian boycott is bound to carry "minimum clout and pressure on Israel" to even consider compliance with 799.

"We can still decide not to go. But let's just say it will be much more difficult to do this on our own. Should we decide not to go then we will have to be very precise in our calculations," said Jamil Hilal, head of the PLO Information Office, in Tunis.

But Syria officially refused to boycott the bilateral talks, saying not attending the multilateral talks is a better option.

Syria's outright refusal to consider the PLO's proposition at the Arab foreign ministers meeting in Cairo last week was a blow to the PLO.


"The total lack of willingness on the part of Arab par-

ties to the talks to boycott was upsetting although not really surprising," said one PLO official in Amman.

"There are two problems," the PLO official said. "One is that Israel is not budging on the issue of the 415 expelled Palestinians and the other is that without support from the Arab states and a united position on this issue and a back-up action we are almost powerless to do anything except boycott on our own."

In a statement made to Radio Monte Carlo this week, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said that the peace process would continue to be "hampered" by the issue of the expelled Palestinians. The comment sparked hope in

(Continued on page 3)



CONGRATULATIONS ARAB BANK

Presents sincere congratulations and best wishes to
HIS MAJESTY KING HUSSEIN
on the occasion of the
Prophetic Ascension.
May God grant your Majesty and the Arab and Islamic nations further prosperity and success in the years to come.

Top Saddam aide calls on Clinton to leave Iraq alone

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Saddam Hussein's press officer advised U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton Tuesday to focus on America's economic problems and leave Iraq alone.

In an open letter published in the ruling Baath Party newspaper Al Thawar, Abdul Jabbar Muhsein said the American people elected Mr. Clinton to help them solve domestic problems and not pursue his predecessor's "anti-Iraq policies."

"Mr. President, the people did not elect you to (continue) with these policies... but with change, with a real new world as you promised," Mr. Muhsein urged Mr. Clinton in the letter which he said it did not necessarily represent the policy of his government.

Mr. Muhsein made no mention of Mr. Clinton's remarks to members of Washington's diplomatic corps that "America's resolve during this transition period will not waver" in dealing with Iraq. "I support the international community's action designed to bring Iraq to full compliance with all United Nations Security Council resolutions, and I ask each of you in the diplomatic corps to emphasise this point to your governments," Mr. Clinton said.

But Mr. Muhsein said U.S. policies under President George Bush reminded him of those followed by "Churchill or for that matter by Stalin or Hitler."

Mr. Muhsein said rejection of Mr. Bush's policies would rid America "of a great number of problems burdening it. If these problems remain, it would lead America's downfall from its

peak."

He added: "A country of the size of your country, when falling, will not stop on the slope but descend to the bottom."

He said there was nothing urgent that required Mr. Bush to use force against Iraq before Mr. Clinton took over.

"Iraq is not an enemy to America and does not want to be. It is an enemy of colonial and barbaric policies practised against it... whether by Americans or others."

But he said that while Iraq wanted to avoid war it would resist to the hilt if Mr. Clinton decided to adopt the same "hostile attitudes."

"Let me offer (Clinton) a free advice: Hostility towards Iraq... will deny you the realities on which the legitimate interests of your country stand," he said.

Iraq's U.N. ambassador said Monday he expects more U.S. and allied attacks on his country but hopes the bombing will stop once Mr. Clinton takes office.

Mr. Clinton, who becomes president Wednesday, cannot count on unqualified support from U.N. members for bombing Iraq.

Russia has expressed misgivings about the raids and told Washington that it should not act without the 15-member council's approval. At Moscow's request, the Security Council scheduled private consultations Tuesday to discuss the dispute.

U.S. aircraft, at times joined by British and French planes, and U.S. cruise missiles have blasted Iraq three times in six days. Sunday's attack demolished a suburban Baghdad manufacturing

site that U.N. inspectors claim was used in Baghdad's illegal nuclear weapons programme.

"We are expecting the worst," Iraq's U.N. ambassador, Nizar Hamdoun, told reporters.

He said Baghdad hopes to defuse the crisis after Mr. Clinton is sworn in Wednesday.

"It's only a question of 36 hours now," said Mr. Hamdoun, the highest-ranking Iraqi official in the United States.

Washington is clashing with Iraq over Iraqi flights into "no-fly" zones imposed by the allies in the north and south.

"I think that Iraq will continue to see the 'no-fly' zones as the greatest irritant," Mr. Hamdoun said.

Baghdad has also balked at letting U.N. inspectors — from the special commission dismantling Iraq's weapons of mass destruction — fly into Iraq at will.

Iraq first proposed that the inspectors fly from Jordan on Iraqi Airline flights. It then said they could come in from Bahrain on their own planes, but the allies must suspend enforcing the southern "no-fly" zone for duration of the flight.

The special commission rejected both Iraqi proposals. Mr. Hamdoun said Baghdad cannot allow the special commission to fly its own planes into Iraq while the air war is on.

"We cannot hold our land-to-air fire if there are active hostilities," he said.

No meetings are scheduled with the commission to try to resolve the impasse, and Baghdad has sent him no new instructions, he said.



A Tajik woman weeps as she recalls the situation in Tajikistan and her arrival last week in the Mazar-e-Sharif refugee camp in Afghanistan (AFP photo)

Tajik refugees face bitter winter in northern Afghanistan

By Kathy Gannon
The Associated Press

MAZAR-E-SHARIF, Afghanistan — In hundreds of flapping blue tents, thousands of barefoot refugees huddled together for shelter from a bitter wind howling across the desolate plains of northern Afghanistan.

In the first week of January, sub-zero temperatures and an outbreak of measles killed 25 people in the frigid no-man's-land south of the wild Amu Darya River that separates Afghanistan and Tajikistan.

The dead, most of them children or elderly, were among nearly 60,000 Tajiks who fled their former Soviet republic last month to escape a civil war between the communist old guard and Islamic fundamentalists.

Afghanistan, where they seek haven, is recovering from a civil war of its own that lasted 14 years and created more than five million refugees.

U.N. officials trying to cope with the sudden influx of Tajiks said hundreds died trying to cross the Amu Darya. The swift current swept away small children clinging to their mothers' backs.

"One woman lost two children like that, and then a third child died in the camp," said Terry Pitzer, who works for the U.N. refugee agency in the camp at Sakhi, 25 kilometres from Mazar-e-Sharif.

Refugees said soldiers fired at them as they fled, slipping through coils of barbed wire and across a huge marsh.

"They shot at our backs. People just fell around me," said Maion Bibi, who left her village 30 kilometres from the border with her eight children.

They crossed the river in rickety boats or on flimsy rafts or tractor tires lashed together, the refugees said.

In a desperate attempt to escape the pitiless wind, some refugees have dug trenches and covered them with tent-canvas roofs held down with logs.

Near several bright-red railway containers filled with food for the Tajiks, a woman sat in a freshly dug hole, clutching the two-week-old baby she had refused to name.

"I want her to die," the mother said. "I want to die. I can't live like this."

Her husband was in a hospital at Mazar-e-Sharif with gunshot wounds.

Eve Marie Westphal of the French group Doctors Without Borders, the only doctor in the camp, said she was treating about 300 people a day, most of them for skin infections, respiratory ailments or diarrhoea.

While U.N. teams drill wells, water is coming by truck from Mazar-e-Sharif, said Hugh Hudson of the relief agency. There are no trees on the plain, so railroad ties are brought in to burn.

Most refugees questioned said they left their homes more than two months ago and had camped beside the river until, in mid-December, Tajik government soldiers forced them across to Afghanistan.

"Still the bodies of the dead children are there on the other side of the river," said Visuliah Adullah. She said soldiers had attacked children with knives.

"They just grabbed them and stabbed them," she said. "We don't know who they were."

Tajikistan's government claims most refugees support its Islamic fundamentalist foes and are armed by fundamentalist Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, one of several guerrilla leaders.

General Rashid Dostum, another leader, and his national movement of the north controls Balkh and Samangan provinces, where most of the refugees are.

He denied sending weapons, but accused Mr. Hekmatyar of supplying Tajikistan's Muslim militants from his bases in northeastern Badkhashan province.

"At some points, he is probably arming the Tajiks," Gen. Dostum said. The general claimed the flow was dwindling because, he said, three senior Hekmatyar commanders who were among the main gun-runners had defected to him.

As for his own area, "no one is allowed to take arms to the border," Gen. Dostum told reporters at his fortress outside Mazar-e-Sharif. He is an ethnic Uzbek and former communist who joined the Muslim insurgents in ousting President Najibullah last April.

He used his fleet of Russian-made helicopters to ferry Tajik refugees from the border to Sakhi and Tashqorghun, another U.N. camp 40 kilometres away.

Khairullah Muzaffar, one of the refugees, said of the future: "We want Tajikistan to be democratic. Whoever is a Muslim can pray as he wants, whoever is a Christian can pray as he wants and if he doesn't want to pray or have any religion, he should be allowed."

"We just want peace."

Bashir dismisses member of junta, reshuffles cabinet

KHARTOUM (AP) — Sudan's military leader has dismissed a member of his ruling junta and withdrawn the powerful post of interior minister from his deputy in a major reshuffle, a government decree says.

The decree issued by Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Al Bashir Monday night sacked Brigadier Faisal Medani Mukhtar from his posts as junta member and health minister.

No reason was given for the dismissal, which reduces membership of the ruling junta, called the Revolution Command Council, to nine. The junta seized power in a military coup June 30, 1989. Of its original 15 members, three were dismissed earlier, one died and one was relieved and appointed head of the transitional parliament.

In another unexplained move, Gen. Bashir relieved Major General Al Zubair Mohammad Saleh, his deputy in the junta and the cabinet, of the influential post of interior minister.

The Interior Ministry was given to Brig. Abdul Rahim Mohammad Hussein, who was secretary general of the junta.

There has been speculation for several months that the junta will be dissolved to establish Gen. Bashir as a civilian ruler. But Gen. Bashir denied this Thursday, and said he planned political changes related to Sudan's plan to become a federation.

Sudan is Africa's largest country and one of the world's poorest. Its faltering economy is burdened by the cost of a 10-year-old civil war in the south and recurrent bouts of drought and famine which have killed hundreds of thousands of people.

Gen. Bashir's reshuffle, however, dissolved three ministries headed by state officials, social welfare and state affairs, and replaced them by a department for federal government affairs.

Gen. Bashir created a new ministry for labour and administrative reform and another for



Omar Hassan Al Bashir

economic planning and investment.

The reshuffle also included reassigning retained ministers to different portfolios.

Brig. Salah Karar, minister of transport and communication, was made minister of energy and mining. Osman Abdul Gadir, minister of works, was renamed minister of transport, communication and tourism.

The Interior Ministry was given to Brig. Abdul Rahim Mohammad Hussein, who was secretary general of the junta.

There has been speculation for several months that the junta will be dissolved to establish Gen. Bashir as a civilian ruler. But Gen. Bashir denied this Thursday, and said he planned political changes related to Sudan's plan to become a federation.

Sudan is Africa's largest country and one of the world's poorest. Its faltering economy is burdened by the cost of a 10-year-old civil war in the south and recurrent bouts of drought and famine which have killed hundreds of thousands of people.

Gen. Bashir's reshuffle, however, dissolved three ministries headed by state officials, social welfare and state affairs, and replaced them by a department for federal government affairs.

Gen. Bashir created a new ministry for labour and administrative reform and another for

UNHCR seeks Saudi help

RIYADH (AP) — The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Sadako Ogata, said Monday that she hoped her first visit to Saudi Arabia would result in a greater cooperative effort between her agency and the Saudi government.

At a news conference at the Riyadh conference palace, Mrs. Ogata praised the Saudis for their generosity towards refugees but noted that her office was not aware of many Saudi activities in this area, possibly resulting in a duplication of both effort and resources.

The office of the UNHCR is responsible for 18 million refugees around the world. Last year, her agency's budget was about \$1 billion, all in the form of voluntary contributions.

The Saudi government gave only \$10,000 to UNHCR last year, and one goal of her visit is to increase that amount.

The Saudi statement, issued late Monday after a cabinet meeting headed by King Fahd, said the Saudi government stressed "the need to implement all Security Council resolutions in general whether on the situation in the Gulf, the Palestinian cause and the issue of evictions as well as the cause of people in Bosnia-Herzegovina."

The official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) quoted Information Minister Ali Hassan Al Shaer as

Saudis urge implementation of all U.N. resolutions

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia, a key U.S. ally, has issued a statement without mentioning Iraq calling for full implementation of all U.N. Security Council resolutions.

Apart from Kuwait, no Gulf Arab country has so far reacted publicly to the U.S.-led allied air and missile strikes on Iraq in the past week that have triggered wide disquiet elsewhere in the Arab World.

The Saudi statement, issued late Monday after a cabinet meeting headed by King Fahd, said the Saudi government stressed "the need to implement all Security Council resolutions in general whether on the situation in the Gulf, the Palestinian cause and the issue of evictions as well as the cause of people in Bosnia-Herzegovina."

The official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) quoted Information Minister Ali Hassan Al Shaer as

saying the cabinet "discussed the military and security developments in the region and debated the reasons and motives that led to the tensions in the area in the last few days."

The Cairo-based Arab League Monday urged the international community not to use double standards in applying Security Council resolutions in order not to "cause a loss of confidence and trigger negative reactions in the Arab and Islamic worlds."

Other Arabs and Muslims have accused the West of reacting sharply against Iraqi infringements of council resolutions while shying away from action in defence of Palestinians expelled by Israeli and Bosnian Muslims under attack by Serbs.

The official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) quoted Information Minister Ali Hassan Al Shaer as

saying the cabinet "discussed the military and security developments in the region and debated the reasons and motives that led to the tensions in the area in the last few days."

The Cairo-based Arab League Monday urged the international community not to use double standards in applying Security Council resolutions in order not to "cause a loss of confidence and trigger negative reactions in the Arab and Islamic worlds."

Other Arabs and Muslims have accused the West of reacting sharply against Iraqi infringements of council resolutions while shying away from action in defence of Palestinians expelled by Israeli and Bosnian Muslims under attack by Serbs.

The official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) quoted Information Minister Ali Hassan Al Shaer as

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 73111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
18:00 Documentary
19:00 News in French
19:15 Varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Saved by the Bell
21:00 Spotlight
21:30 James Bond
22:00 News in English
22:30 Echoes in the Darkness

PRAYER TIMES

05:10 Fajr
06:31 (Sunrise) Duha
11:46 Dhuhri
14:38 'Asr
17:02 Maghrib
18:23 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweileh, Tel. 510740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 623785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel.

637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terrace Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 711331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 717751

St. Mary's Church Tel. 665326

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 624932, 654932

Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675991

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology

It will be fair and winds will be southeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northwesterly fresh and sea calm.

Min/Max. temp.

Amman -1 / 12

Aqaba 5 / 18

Deserts -3 / 13

Jordan Valley 1 / 19

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Mohammad Shuaib 652693
Dr. Isam Al Asmar 805004
Dr. Jamal Al Jarrah 769469
Dr. Mohammad Al Ghani 790739
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 770336
Al Asma pharmacy 670755
Nawroth pharmacy 623672
Al Salem pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shameem pharmacy 637660
Nawroth pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate 630341

Rescue 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 891238

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 894390

Public Security Department 630321

Hotel Complaints 655880

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage 897467

Amman Municipality 787111

Complaints 787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone 623101

Abdullah Telephone Repair 661101

Jordan Television 773111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power 636381

Company 636381

RJ Flight Information 08-53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32

Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 642816

Al-Khazim Maternity, J. Amn 642412

Al-Nahla Maternity 642362

Majal, J. Amman 636140

Palatine, Shmeisani 664171/4

Sunaidi Hospital 669131

University Hospital 655945

Al-Musharraf Hospital 66727/9

The Islamic, Abdal 666127/57

Al-Ahl, Abdal 666146/6

Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf 77101/3

Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf 77101/3

Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf 77101/3

Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf 77101/3

Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf 77101/3

Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf 77101/3

Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf 77101/3

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ROYAL JORDANIAN (RJ) FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

05:00 Aden (RJ)

05:45 Dhahran (RJ)

06:30 Jeddah (RJ)

07:00 Aden (RJ)

07:45 Dhahran (RJ)

08:30 Jeddah (RJ)

09:00 Aden (RJ)

09:45 Dhahran (RJ)

10:30 Jeddah (RJ)

11:00 Aden (RJ)

11:45 Dhahran (RJ)

12:30 Jeddah (RJ)

13:00 Aden (RJ)

13:45 Dhahran (RJ)

14:30 Jeddah (RJ)

15:00 Aden (RJ)

15:45 Dhahran (RJ)

16:30 Jeddah (RJ)

17:00 Aden (RJ)

Prince Hassan emphasises need for specific criteria for humanitarian intervention

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan called for the adoption of specific criteria for "humanitarian intervention" which the United Nations normally entrusts to particular country or a group of states.

Addressing a seminar on human rights held here last week, the Crown Prince said there was urgent need for strict commitment to accurately defining such cases that justify humanitarian intervention in order to safeguard humanitarian interests: with a just and non-political framework.

The seminar, organised at the

behest of former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, was attended by world leaders concerned about human rights. The Atlanta meeting was one of several meetings in preparation for an international conference on human rights to be held in June in Vienna.

Prior to the seminar, the Crown Prince met Mr. Carter and discussed the general situation in the Middle East and world affairs.

Prince Hassan, who is now in Germany, also met with members of the Board of Directors of the New York Times to exchange views on current world affairs and to outline Jordan's democratic process.



An arrested Palestinian sits in army jeep Tuesday after an Israeli security person was seriously injured in the head in Beit Sahur, West Bank (AFP photo)

'No let-up in Israeli repression' — report

AMMAN (Petra) — Israeli authorities last month escalated "repressive" measures against the Arab population in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip following the expulsion of 415 Palestinians from their homes to occupied Lebanese territory, according to a report by the Department of Palestinian Affairs of the Foreign Ministry in Amman.

The expulsion triggered a new wave of resistance activity in the occupied territories, prompting Israel to step up measures against the Palestinians including extended curfews, night searches of homes, detentions without trial and confiscation of property, the report said.

Israeli forces focused on mosques in the Gaza Strip where they have been conducting search campaigns, attacking civilians, destroying furniture and clashing with youths in the streets, the

statement said. It said in the past month, the Israeli forces detained 2,200 Palestinians on various charges related to resistance activities, demonstrations, stone-throwing incidents.

The statement said by the end of 1992 Israeli authorities had confiscated 3,077,364 dunums of Arab land in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

In the past month, Israel issued 198 administrative detention orders in the West Bank and Gaza, demolished 16 homes and killed 24 youths in clashes with demonstrators, the statement said.

The search and detention actions, the statement said, were upon direct orders from Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin following the upsurge of resistance activity inside the occupied territories, since the expulsion of the 415 Palestinians to Lebanon.

Referring to the situation in Israeli jails, the statement said, conditions there were deteriorating: Detainees have been denied proper food, warmth and clothing, and many have been kept in isolation.

The statement also said last month Israel imposed extended curfews on Palestinian refugee camps and towns and banned travel to and from certain areas which they consider military zones.

The statement said measures were being taken against educational institutions such as Bethlehem University which is continually besieged by troops.

The statement said, the occupied territories have been "invaded by thousands of Israeli troops" in an effort to stem the intifada which heightened following the expulsion orders.

'Enemies challenge Arab and Muslim nations' — minister

Jordanians celebrate Al Israa Wal Mi'raj



Sheikh Izzeddin Al Tamimi

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Izzeddin Al Khatib Al Tamimi Tuesday launched a vehement attack on what he referred to as the "enemies of the Arab and Muslim nations for their atrocities against Muslims in Palestine, Iraq, Bosnia Herzegovina, India and Somalia."

The minister paid tribute to His Majesty King Hussein for "his relentless efforts to support the oppressed people of Palestine and to safeguard the Holy Sites in Jerusalem."

The ceremony was organised by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs which issued a statement saying the feast this year coincides with an escalation of attacks on Muslims around the world.

It called for unity of ranks and a liberation of the Al Aqsa Mosque and the other Holy Sites. King receives congratulatory cables

On the occasion of the feast of Al Israa Wal Mi'raj, King Hussein received congratulatory cables from senior government officials who wished the King continuing good health and wished the Arab and Muslim nations every success.

The cables were sent by Prime Minister Sherif Zeid Ben Shaker, Speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi and Abdul Latif Arabiyat, Mayor of Amman Mohammad Al

Bashir, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Field Marshal Fathi Abu Taleb, directors of General Intelligence, Public Security and Civil Defence Departments, and Chief of State Justice.

In their cables, senders said the occasion comes at a time when the whole Arab and Muslim nations are suffering divisions, splits and facing aggressions and "evil plans in Palestine, Iraq, Lebanon, and Sudan."

The cables said Arab and Muslim generations pin great hopes on His Majesty King Hussein, who has always carried the message of reconciliation and accord, and upheld the noble principles which unite rather than divide, and transcend the differences which have divided the Arab fold. The cables stressed that the occasion should awaken in leaders and people the meaning of pride glory, implanted in our history.

Architect chosen to exhibit work in U.K.

AMMAN (J.T.) — Rasm Badran, a well-known Jordanian architect, has been selected to exhibit works at the international exhibition of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA). The exhibition is to be inaugurated in London by the Prince of Wales and is to tour major British cities, in a show of recognition of the works of 30 international architects. The exhibition will include names such as Leon Krier, Aldo Rossi, Hans Hollein, Alvaro Siza and Professor Bohm.

The significance of the choice stems in the sole representation of the Arab Islamic world through Mr. Badran, in recognition of his work in the architectural world which is specifically related to the heritage and Islamic culture of the region.

Kuwait

(Continued from page 1) official communiqué he issued Monday expressing regret at U.S.-led military attacks on Iraq since last Wednesday and rejecting the use of force to resolve international disputes.

The Kuwaiti army said Tuesday U.S. Patriot air defence missiles have been installed in Kuwait and are operational amid heightened tension in the Gulf.

"The Patriot missile batteries are now in Kuwait and ready to be fired at any second to face any danger or potential threat," the official Kuwait News Agency quoted the army as saying.

Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah said Kuwait had asked Washington for the missiles "because we have to save our people in Kuwait."

A senior Iranian official Tuesday condemned Iraq and the United States — and Kuwait — for raising tensions in the Gulf, Tehran Radio reported.

It said Parliamentary Vice-Speaker Hassan Rohani criticised Kuwait for inviting U.S. forces to the sheikhdom to defend it.

Mr. Rohani, in a speech to parliament, condemned "the presence of foreign forces, especially Americans in the strategic 'Persian' Gulf region and their interference in regional affairs."

U.S. report

(Continued from page 1) 158 Palestinians in 1992 and at least 45 of them were killed by undercover units disguised as Palestinians. According to eyewitness accounts, approximately two-third were unarmed.

The report said civilians are the primary targets of military action in Bosnia, making a mockery of the Convention.

All sides in the former Yugoslav republic are guilty of atrocities, but "the atrocities of the Croats and Bosnian Muslims pale in comparison to the sheer scale and calculated cruelty of the killings and other abuses committed by Serbian and Bosnian Serbian forces against Bosnian Muslims."

PLO leaders face critical challenge

(Continued from page 1)

some Palestinian quarters that the Arab position may change vis-a-vis the threat of a boycott.

Mr. Mubarak spoke after a surprise visit to Damascus and the expellee issue was apparently on the agenda. But the visit of Egypt's Foreign Minister Amr Musa to Israel apparently did not bear fruit as far as the expelled Palestinians were concerned.

While Israel has raised the number of expellees it says were sent to South Lebanon by mistake to 16 and has said that it was considering taking back those who were sick, a major move is yet to be made.

PLO officials as well as some Arab leaders have publicly suggested that Israel take back the expellees and put them in jail or "arrange" for a final verdict of the Supreme Court which would make the expulsions "unconstitutional" or "illegal."

Thus far the Israelis have not made a move and the Palestinians are sitting on a tight rope.

"If we go to the talks and the expelled men are still in South Lebanon we will be losers. If we don't go, the other Arabs will conclude a separate peace with Israel and we will still be losers because we will get nothing from the Israelis under such circumstances," con-

cluded Mohammad Milhem, an Amman-based PNC member who was expelled 13 years ago.

Many PLO members believe that if Mr. Arafat sanctions the participation of a Palestinian negotiating team without any satisfactory solution to the expellees crisis he "will lose the faith of his people and he will lose face."

"It will be political suicide if he does it," says PNC member Abu Ayash.

While Palestinians ponder their future moves, PLO officials in Tunis are keeping their options open.

"All doors were still open" to the talks, Mr. Hilal maintained.

"The PLO will announce no official position until an invitation to the Palestinian delegation is forwarded," he said. "There is no reason why we should announce our intentions before the United Nations special envoys have had time to brief the U.N. Security Council on the findings of their mission and make recommendations for further steps to be taken," Mr. Hilal added in a telephone interview with the Jordan Times. "Furthermore we have not been informed of either the time or the venue of the next bilateral meeting; so we cannot possibly respond."

Israeli paper reports land grab plan

(Continued from page 1)

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, she said.

"But the mayor thinks to talk today about expropriation in the present political climate is unwise."

On Sunday Israel's Peace Now movement accused the government of expanding Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank, contradicting Mr. Rabin's pledge to curb them when he took office in July.

The housing ministry denied the charges. But Israel Television, reporting on them, showed bulldozers clearing land at two West Bank settlements.

West Bank settlements.

"For instance at Beit Hagai settlement near Hebron we found a tractor repairing ground for 60 new housing units and at Naale...three bulldozers were at work," the television said.

Peace Now said: "Continuation of construction at this time is an obstacle to the peace talks in Washington and it raises tension and violence in the territories."

Palestinians said Tuesday that four mobile homes were set up at Ofra settlement near West Bank town of Ramallah. Settlers said the structures were to house soldiers and not part of the West Bank settlement.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Khairallah named CBJ deputy governor

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers Tuesday approved the appointment of Mohammad Waleed Khairallah as deputy governor of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ).

House committee discusses passport

AMMAN (Petra) — The Public Freedoms and Citizen's Rights Committee of the Lower House of Parliament held a meeting Tuesday under the chairmanship of deputy Ibrahim Khreisat. The committee discussed issues related to temporary and permanent Jordanian passports and the prospect of allowing Jordanians who lost their passports abroad to return home. The committee also discussed the issue of reinstating those who lost their jobs for political reasons. In another development, the Lower House's Judiciary Committee is scheduled to meet Saturday morning to resume its discussion of the amended Youth Welfare Law.

Passport department to ease procedures

AMMAN (Petra) — Director General of the Passports and General Registration Department Nassouh Muhyeddin Tuesday issued instructions to all of the department's personnel to facilitate procedures facing citizens applying for new passports. Mr. Muhyeddin urged the department employees to finish all citizen's applications within less than a day, provided applicants have all pertinent records enclosed with the application forms.

Baath Party thanks government

AMMAN (Petra) — Official spokesmen of the Jordanian Baath Arab Socialist Party Ahmad Al Najdawi Tuesday paid tribute to Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and government officials who helped to remove obstacles which stood in the way of legalising the party. Mr. Najdawi said the party will always fight for its principles which call for Arab unity and freedom in accordance with the Jordanian Constitutions and law. The party was granted a licence by Interior Minister Jawdat Al Shoubi Monday. It is the seventh party to receive legal recognition in the Kingdom.

JMA discusses investments, marketing

AMMAN (Petra) — A scientific meeting on ways of launching industrial ventures concluded at the Jordanian Management Institute Tuesday. The meeting attempted to assist the 24 participants in developing new ideas on offering new products and services in the local market. The participants were also familiarised with ways of converting their ideas into an organised working plan that conforms to effective marketing policies and a sound production plan. The meeting discussed the investment climate in Jordan, small projects, market analysis, assessing demand in the market and other related issues.

Princess Rahmah attends ballet

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputising for Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath, Her Royal Highness Princess Rahmah Al Hassan attended Tuesday the opening ceremony of the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) Ballet Troupe held at the centre's main theatre. The opening ceremony for the three-days of performance was also attended by several senators, officials from the ministry of culture and members of diplomatic missions in Amman.

German ambassador visits JUST

IRBID (Petra) — President of the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) Kamel Al Ajlouni Tuesday met with German Ambassador to Jordan Heinrich Reiners. Dr. Ajlouni and Mr. Reiners discussed ways of promoting scientific and academic cooperation between JUST and German universities.



Jordanian and Moroccan officials Tuesday open talks on trade relations (Petra photo)

Jordan, Morocco seek to implement trade pact

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Morocco opened talks here Tuesday designed to promote trade and economic links between the two countries and to pave the way for the implementation of a trade agreement signed last year.

Heading the Jordanian team to the talks, Secretary General of the Ministry of Industry and Trade Marwan Awad said Jordan's trade exchanges with other individual Arab states were on average higher than the level of trade exchanges between the Arab states themselves.

Mr. Awad said the two countries ought to increase the volume of trade and bolster their economic cooperation.

In the past year, Mr. Awad said, Jordan and Morocco exchanged national goods valued about \$5 million; but this is still far below the target of the bilateral agreement.

Mr. Awad expressed confidence that the current meetings will produce the framework for plans to stimulate trade and economic cooperation, particularly through the help of the private sectors in both countries.

The head of the Moroccan team, Rashad Abu Hilal, said the meeting aims at further developing economic and trade relations

and alleviating customs difficulties that impede a higher degree of cooperation.

Mr. Abu Hilal and his team who arrived in Amman Monday evening, are expected to hold other meetings with government officials.

Following the opening talks, the two sides referred the task of details in plans to implement last year's agreement to experts from Jordan and Morocco. They will discuss various aspects of plans to stimulate trade, tourism and technical cooperation, as well as customs barriers.

Jordan and Morocco have organised trade fairs in Amman and Casablanca in the past year. According to ministry officials in Amman 80 Jordanian firms sold JD 1.2 million worth of national products through the Jordanian fair.

The Moroccan team earlier visited the Free Zone Corporation (FZC) and discussed activities and operations. They also visited the Sahab Industrial City near Amman.

Mr. Awad told the Jordan Times the Jordanian-Moroccan talks will continue through Wednesday and the two sides will sign an agreement Thursday.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

☆ Exhibition entitled "Latin American Countries in France" at the French Cultural Centre.

☆ Exhibition entitled "Modernist Still Life Photographed" at the American Centre.

FILM

☆ Video film entitled "The Woman He Loved" at the British Council — 7 p.m.

MIDDLE EAST

MEDICAL SCIENCES LABORATORY

Director
Dr. HASSIB A. SAHYOUN
Consultant
Dr. JALAL HADDADIN
Supervisor
Dr. NASHAT DAHABREH

COMPLETE DIAGNOSTIC INVESTIGATIONS

OPENING SATURDAY 16th JANUARY 1993

IN COOPERATION WITH ZAHNAN MEDICAL LABORATORY

BOTH LABORATORIES MEMBERS OF THE

("MLS" CONSULTANCY GROUP)

Working Hours : 7.30 am. - 8.00 pm.

Fridays : 9.00 am. - 1.00 pm.

Address : Rawhi Center, Near Al-khalidi

Hospital Jabal Amman - Jordan.

Telephone : 615125 Fax : 610444

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.
Established 1975

جريدة الأردن السياسية المستقلة المنشورة بالإنجليزية من مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Hope better than despair

JORDAN'S REACTION to the renewed attacks against Iraq by the U.S. and its allies has predictably ranged from words of "anger and sadness" by His Majesty the King to outright condemnation by Parliament and the press. This reaction is understandable, in fact, since the strikes have presented Jordan with a political dilemma that is not much different from the one faced by the other Arab countries in the region. While the attacks served the purposes of presidents George Bush and Saddam Hussein, the military escalation and the rising tension neither helped the cause of Arab-Israeli peace nor contributed to efforts aimed at Arab reconciliation. Furthermore, the role that Jordan has adopted for itself in advocating human rights and democracy for the peoples of the region was again being eroded and sidelined by the new acts of war close to home.

His Majesty made it a point to express support for the "Iraqi people and territorial integrity" of their country, but he rightly withheld from apportioning blame for starting the flare-up on any one single party.

The Iraqi leadership, with whom we have an uneasy relationship, cannot be totally responsible for the tension. While, on the other hand, Western double standards in dealing with the various issues of the world, particularly the expulsion of Palestinians and the situation in Bosnia, cannot be ignored or dismissed lightly either.

But the timing of the attacks could not have been worse for us. They have come at a time when we have been in the middle of efforts to repair relations with the U.S. and its Arab allies as well as reevaluating policy options on Iraq. In the latter case, the strikes make it incumbent on us to stick with the only viable option of preserving Iraq for now even at the expense of lowering expectations for improved relations with Washington, Riyadh and their friends.

Some Jordanians feel that things can only improve with the change of administration in the U.S., since both President Saddam and other governments in the region will have to moderate their behaviour to suit the new thinking in Washington, thus bringing everybody closer to the centrist Jordanian position.

This remains more of a hope than an expectation, given the complex issues that govern inter-Arab, U.S.-Arab and regional relations, it is true. But hope, little as it may be, is better than despair, under this and all other circumstances.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RAY Tuesday bitterly attacked France for falling into the trap set for it by Washington and for joining the British and the Americans in raising Iraqi cities. We had counted on France and its president to stand fast before the American arrogance and attempts at imposing hegemony over the world, but we were disappointed to see France falling in the trap and joining the enemies of the Arab World, said the paper. Indeed, France is joining to avenge its defeat in Algeria, joining the British, who were kicked out from Aden and other parts of the Arab World, and the Americans who tasted defeat in Beirut, the paper added. It said that it is to be regretted that France is being regarded no more than a pawn on the American chess board, totally and completely falling under Washington's influence and being pushed around by American presidents acting upon their whims. The Western alliance is fighting Iraq out of hatred of Muslims and Arabs and is launching a racist battle in order to subdue the Arab Nation in general and the Iraqis in particular, said the paper. This war is bound to end sooner or later and history will keep records of the courageous stand of the Iraqi people and of the black chapter of the coalition forces which took part in aggression against humanity, the paper added.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour daily said that the deportation of 415 Palestinians is a problem of all Arabs and not the Palestinians' alone. Saleh Al Qallah said that the Palestine question is a pan-Arab issue that concerns all Arab states. Israel's atrocities directed at the Palestinians are indeed aimed at the Arab Nation at large and its desecration of the holy places concerns all Muslims around the World. But the writer criticised the Islamists for holding separate rallies in Jordan to show support for the expelled Palestinians, noting that all national and Islamist groups had agreed in advance to take concerted efforts and to hold open rallies for all popular movements — Islamists or otherwise — in order to manifest solidarity with the evictees. It was hoped that the deportation of the 415 Palestinians would unite the various factions and political groups, but we are surprised to see the Islamists taking a different course and holding their own meetings and rallies, excluding the other factions, said the writer. He said that experience had shown that separate and unorganised political work, on the part of different groups, can yield no good or positive results. No party or group should exploit the expulsion of the Palestinians as a tool for election propaganda campaign and, said the writer, all political groups should realise that the Zionists do not differentiate between one group and another when launching aggression.

Economic Forum

Mysterious drop in external debt

By Dr. Abdallah Malki

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) sponsored economic adjustment programme derives its legitimacy fairly and squarely from its promise to eventually enable Jordan to repay its external debt. It was this debt, and Jordan's inability to pay maturing instalments, that forced us to seek the help of the IMF in 1989 and to accept its mandate. It follows that the success or failure of the programme must be measured by the fulfilment of this mission i.e., repayment of external debt. Because repayment, on a net basis, will start only at the outset of the next century, the final and real grading of the programme will have to await that time.

Accordingly, any retirement of our external debt, through repayment, forgiveness or whatever, should be hailed as a step in the right direction and a legitimate reason for celebration. Given the figures released in the 1993 "budget speech," a very remarkable achievement was made in 1992. The grand total of Jordan's external debt (net outstanding balance) dropped from \$7,346 million at the end of 1991 to \$6,625 million at the end of 1992, that is by \$721 million.

This figure, \$721 million or around JD490 million, has intrigued me because I have not been aware of debt repayments to that

time. The totality of external and internal loans repaid in 1992 amounted to only JD311 million while freshly-acquired loans reached JD359 million, meaning that external indebtedness increased rather than decreased. Payment of interest on external loans during 1992 stood at only \$196 million (= JD132.9 million), meaning that interest payments cannot also explain the statistical drop of \$721 million in our external debt!

Admittedly, some of our external loans were purchased, before maturity, in the secondary markets at substantial discounts. But who, or which party, made the purchases? It was not the Ministry of Finance because such purchases in this case would have figured in the draft budget document.

There are a number of possibilities that may, jointly or individually, explain the mysterious drop in Jordan's external debt in 1992. First, some loans could have been written off. This is a very faint possibility because not a single word has been circulated in the town or outside regarding such write-offs.

Second, part of the loans repaid might relate to financially independent public institutions. But again, the missing item is too big to be absorbed by the debt of these institutions.

A third suspect is a downmarking of our debt as we recomputed the interest on dollar-denominated loans at the substantially lower rates on dollar assets.

Another very important explanation is for the Central Bank of Jordan, not the Ministry of Finance, to have purchased some of Jordan's external loans at hefty discounts, in which case the amortised loans would not appear in the budget. But again, this eventuality will have to be dismissed because no related figures can be traced in the central bank's balance sheets. However, if the central bank did that, it would be lending the Ministry of Finance the equivalent of what it purchased and therefore the internal public debt would have shown an identical rise. That was not the case, because the minister of finance stated explicitly in the budget speech that public debt decreased, rather than increased, in 1992; it dropped to JD923 million, from JD1,052 in 1991.

The reason behind the celebrated drop in the book value of our external debt during 1992 may be very simple, but it is not visible in the published official documents and policy announcements. However, what really matters is the drop not the reason; it will, nevertheless, be very assuring to know the reason, if there is one.

Globe more crowded, more troubled but in some ways safer

By Robert Barr
The Associated Press

LONDON — Bill Clinton's world is more crowded, more disorderly and more polluted than the one Ronald Reagan confronted in 1980 when Republicans began a three-term occupation of the White House.

The planet has gained one billion people, an explosion of AIDS, an ozone hole and nearly a score of new countries. It teems with possibilities for distracting Mr. Clinton from the domestic issues at the heart of his long campaign.

Announcing his foreign policy team last month, Mr. Clinton promised "a foreign policy of engagement, one that strengthens democracy, promotes economic reform, opens markets and stands up to aggression and intolerance."

But it's no longer a world in which Mr. Clinton is likely to echo John F. Kennedy's inauguration day promise to "pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe."

The burdens have grown enormously in 12 years. "We added roughly 100 million people a year to the planet, and unfortunately a significant fraction of those — a fifth anyway — live in a degrading level of poverty," said Allen Hammond, director of resource and environmental information for the World Resources Institute in Washington.

The new president inherits from President George Bush a new agreement with Russia to sharply reduce nuclear arsenals, a treaty with Mexico and Canada to establish a free-trade zone and a commitment of troops to help feed the starving in Somalia.

He also assumes leadership of an international coalition facing the endlessly defiant Saddam Hussein in Iraq, and responsibility for a sputtering Arab-Israeli peace process.

The fighting in Bosnia-Herzegovina exemplifies the dangers let loose by the collapse of the Soviet Union and its satellites.

Jane's Defence Weekly, the respected British journal of military affairs, this month counted 73 flashpoints around the world, including fighting or insurrections from Somalia, Angola and Liberia in Africa to Tajikistan in the former Soviet Union and Peru and Colombia in South America.

The collapse of the Middle East peace process and renewed conflict in the region, the outbreak of civil war in South Africa or spreading unrest in former Soviet lands — any of these developments could deeply entangle the president in foreign affairs, says James Plaskitt of Oxford



Bill Clinton

Analytics, a private British consultancy.

"Here be rocks," as they used to say on old marine maps," Mr. Plaskitt said.

Warren Christopher, Mr. Clinton's choice for secretary of state, spoke of facing "a world where borders matter less and less, a world that demands we join with other nations to face challenges that range from overpopulation to AIDS, to the very destruction of our planet's life-support system."

During the campaign, Mr. Clinton promised to stop the forcible repatriation of Haitian refugees; oppose the creation of an independent Palestinian state; cut U.S. troop levels in Europe and invest in expanded air and sea lift capacity for the military.

He has already hedged on one promise, giving his support to Mr. Bush's decision last Friday to impose a naval blockade around Haiti to block a mass refugee exodus.

In the campaign, Mr. Clinton's

emphasis was heavily on domestic issues, particularly the weakness of the U.S. economy. But even there, foreign policy issues arise.

Mr. Clinton criticised Mr. Bush for being too accommodating to China's repressive, elderly leaders. He will face a decision on whether to pressure China by withdrawing most-favoured-nation trading status — and cut U.S. producers out of the world's largest market.

Mr. Clinton may well have the opportunity to deal with new leaders in China and in North Korea, whose reported progress towards becoming a nuclear power is a worrying development in Asia.

Since winning the election, Mr. Clinton has emphasised foreign relations closest to home. His first meeting with a foreign head of state was with Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari in Texas on Jan. 8, where he reaffirmed his support for the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Some figures which show how the world has changed since Democrats last occupied the White House.

World population: 1980, 4.478 billion; 1991, 5.423 billion.
Reported cases of AIDS (cumulative): 1980, 114; 1992, 611,589.
Carbon dioxide in the atmosphere: 1980, 338.5 parts per million; 1990, 354.0 ppm.
Tropical forest area: 1980, 1.885 billion hectares; 1990, 1.715 billion hectares.
Infant mortality: 1975-80, 86 per 1,000; 1985-90, 70 per 1,000.
Wheat production: 1979-81 average, 487 million tonnes; 1990, 655 million tonnes.
Estimated world petroleum reserves: 1980, 649 trillion barrels; 1992, 997 trillion barrels.
Value of dollar: Jan. 14, 1981, 203.30 yen; Jan. 14, 1993, 126.65 yen.

Extinct nations since 1980: Soviet Union, German Democratic Republic, Yemen Arab Republic, People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia.
New members of the United Nations since 1980: Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belize, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Brunei, Czech Republic, Croatia, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Moldova, North Korea, St. Kitts and Nevis, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan.

It's a long list, and already Clinton has trouble keeping his word

By John King
The Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — In the heat of the presidential campaign, it often seemed as if Bill Clinton had a promise for everybody.

He pledged to rescue the "forgotten middle class," make health care and college available to all, reverse the Bush administration's Haiti policy, chop the deficit in half in four years and cut the White House staff by 25 per cent.

But now, with his inauguration just five days away, the president-elect is retreating from some campaign pledges and finding out that others will be difficult to keep because of budget constraints.

The latest shift came on Thursday, when Clinton said he would continue "for the time being"

Mr. Bush's policy of forcibly returning Haitian refugees to their homeland, this despite an adamant campaign declaration that "this policy must not stand."

Mr. Clinton insisted he was not going back on his word. "I still believe the policy should be changed...but I don't think we can do it on a dime on January the 20th," Mr. Clinton said, hoping to head off a mass migration of Haitians to Florida.

Mr. Clinton and senior aides protest when it is suggested Mr. Clinton is abandoning campaign promises. Most will be kept, they say, and those that are being ditched or refined are under review because of changing economic conditions and a bigger-than-expected federal deficit.

On Friday, Mr. Clinton's Communications Director George Stephanopoulos acknowledged some "bumps in the road" during the transition and "a lot of uncertainty during the transition phase" that sometimes left Mr. Clinton "caught betwixt and between."

But he urged against rushing to judgement on whether Mr. Clinton would keep his word. "Judge him by his performance — he is not in office yet," Mr. Stephanopoulos said. "He will follow through on his commitments."

Mr. Clinton himself appeared half defensive and half indignant when pressed Thursday to explain his apparent retreat from several major campaign promises.

"I think the American people voted for me because they...supported the big things that we were running on," Mr. Clinton said. "I think that it would be irresponsible for any president of the United States not to respond to changing circumstances."

As he comes under criticism, Mr. Clinton is in many ways a victim of his campaign insistence on specificity. From his announcement speech to acceptance speech at the Democratic convention, Mr. Clinton insisted on including detailed policy proposals in virtually every major address, leaving a lengthy list of promises that then were compiled in his campaign book, "Putting People First."

say the public is far less concerned than the media with reversals or shifts on any specific promise.

"I don't think people are out there with a scorecard having counted up his 102 commitments and scoring him," said Mr. Clinton's pollster Stanley Greenberg. Still, Mr. Clinton, the man dubbed "pander bear" by one primary rival, repeatedly has found himself defending policy shifts.

"I think I have to revisit it in light of the bigger deficit," Mr. Clinton said Wednesday in explaining why his once solid pledge of a middle class tax cut was now a goal. "I have to put everything back on the table because of the size of the deficit."

Other "goals" now are Mr. Clinton's promised 25 per cent White House staff cut and 50 per cent deficit reduction over four years.

Aides say Mr. Clinton eventually will meet his White House staff cut goal and blame the retreat on the deficit pledge to the Bush administration's recent announcement that the federal debt was much worse than projected just a few months ago.

"Reality sometimes governs rather than politics," said Mr. Greenberg. "And the reality is that over time things can change. You have to think through the budget situation and address that regardless of what you promised as a candidate."

هكذا في الامم

Iraq offers unilateral ceasefire

(Continued from page 1)

missile and radar site in northern Iraq after the radar "locked on" the plane in a threatening action, said a Pentagon official.

Three hours later, two F-16s dropped several cluster bombs on an Iraqi anti-aircraft site after being fired on by artillery, the official said.

The RCC said the proposed ceasefire, which could allow one of the sorest parts of the latest confrontations between Iraq and the West, would last as long as the allies do not attack Iraq.

Pentagon spokesman Pete Williams said the Bush administration had not received official notification of the Iraqi ceasefire announcement, and warned, "more important than any statement is action."

There was no immediate reaction from the Bush White House, which was in its last full day of operation.

The Iraqi military must not stop firing on U.S., British and French aircraft patrolling the "no-fly" zones in the north and south, it must also take them out of firing status and store them, Mr. Williams said.

"It's a helpful sign if in fact Iraq will stop threatening coalition aircraft," Mr. Williams said, adding, "but the most important thing is what (Iraq) really does."

Baghdad must also agree to the United Nations weapons inspections, Mr. Williams said, citing yet again the two issues that have brought Iraq and the allies to

military confrontation in recent weeks.

Cable News Network (CNN) reported that Iraq also agreed to allow United Nations planes to fly directly from Bahrain to Baghdad in a new concession aimed at easing tension in the Gulf.

CNN said it had learned from a "senior Iraqi official" that the United Nations was being informed of the decision.

Iraq has been insisting the U.N. flights carrying officials to inspect Baghdad's weapons arsenal should fly via Jordan.

Meanwhile, Russia, taking a harder line than expected, is demanding that the United States and other allied powers seek explicit approval from the U.N. Security Council before launching further attacks on Iraq.

The 15-member Security Council, at Russia's request, scheduled private consultations Tuesday to discuss the dispute.

The demand, made in a note Monday to U.S. Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, reflects the pressure being applied to President Boris Yeltsin by hardliners who accuse him of betraying former allies.

The Soviet Union and later Russia, as a permanent member of the Security Council, has supported resolutions against Iraq and the use of military action to enforce them.

Although Russia has not provided any military backing, neither has it used its veto power to block the enforcement.

Iraq's ambassador to Russia,

Ghaffar Jassim Hussein, told reporters Tuesday that his country had asked Russia "to condemn this treacherous aggression."

Foreign ministers of most Gulf Arab countries have told Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev that they support the position Russia took in Monday's note, the ITAR-TASS news agency said.

"It ought to be clear that the way out is by full implementation of the decisions of the U.N. Security Council," said a statement from the Foreign Ministry carried by ITAR-TASS.

Russia, the statement said, "proceeds firmly from the principle that the reaction to the actions by Iraq must be adequate and must proceed only from (U.N.) decisions. It seems the necessity has arisen once again to review the situation in the U.N. Security Council."

A spokesman also said the latest raids on Iraq was "not in proportion."

"In this case we might say the reaction was not in proportion," chief spokesman Sergei Yastrebinsky told a news briefing.

U.S. officials said in Washington on Monday that Russia's Ambassador Vladimir Lukin had formally asked for Moscow to be consulted before any further attacks.

The commander of the armed forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States Tuesday added his voice to the growing chorus of Russians questioning the attacks on Iraq.

"It seems to me that both sides are playing some sort of games," General Yevgeny Shaposhnikov said at a news conference. "I cannot fully understand all the mysteries of the players of these games."

Two Russian newspapers criticized Mr. Yeltsin's government Tuesday for its support of the U.S.-led coalition.

"Banditry against Iraq — there is no other way to describe the action — has become possible thanks to Russia's shortsighted, putting it mildly, policy in the U.N.," wrote Rabochaya Tribuna.

The daily Sovetskaya Rossiya wrote: "Iraq has been blackmailed by the Americanised 'world community' for two years now. Yeltsin's political regime has joined the effort having once again shown its anti-national and anti-popular nature."

The new skirmishes in Iraq came in the early morning hours after Iraqi missile and radar installations "locked on" to U.S. and British jets and a U.S. fighter drew Iraqi anti-aircraft artillery fire, two senior Pentagon officials said.

As well, the aircraft carrier USS John F. Kennedy was moving into the Eastern Mediterranean, said a senior defence official. In addition, the guided missile cruiser USS Belknap with Vice Admiral T. Joseph Lopez, commander of the U.S. Sixth Fleet, aboard, left a Portugal port call to enter the Mediterranean.

Accompanying the Kennedy

are two Aegis-class cruisers, the USS Leyte Gulf and USS Gettysburg, both of which are capable of firing Tomahawk cruise missiles, the official said.

At the Pentagon, spokesman Williams Tuesday denied any cracks in the allied coalition, saying "they remain united" on two critical points: Iraq must comply with U.N. resolution and Iraq must not interfere with allied flights in the 'no-fly' zone.

Mr. Williams said that Iraqi jets were continuing to fly just across the 36th Parallel that forms the south border of the northern "no-fly" zone in an attempt to lure allied aircraft into air defence "traps."

"This is sticking a toe over the line," he said, indicating that the Iraqi flights were designed only to draw allied planes close enough to surface-to-air missile batteries to try to shoot them down.

At the White House, spokesman Martin Fitzwater called Tuesday's skirmishes over northern Iraq "a defensive attack," but he refused to rule out more strikes in the final 24 hours of the Bush administration.

"We continue to watch Iraq's behaviour, we certainly would not hesitate to respond if necessary," Mr. Fitzwater said.

Meanwhile, the Vatican said Tuesday that it has accepted an Iraqi request to ask the United Nations to press for dialogue and halt military action in Iraq.

Secretary-General Boutros Ghali Tuesday recommended 3,645 armed troops and military support personnel to guard the Iraq-Kuwait border in order to prevent further disputes between the two countries over their newly-demarcated boundary.

In a report to the Security Council, Dr. Ghali said the new complement should replace the 500 unarmed military observers and other military personnel in the U.N. Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) currently patrolling a demilitarised zone between the two countries.

Senior council diplomats said the 15-member body might approve the contingents later in the week and were to discuss the report in closed-door consultations later Tuesday.

Dr. Ghali also suggested that in future the council might consider preventing violations of the maritime boundary between the two countries and add naval forces to patrol the Khawr Abd Allah waterway that leads to the Gulf.

This boundary is not demarcated yet by a U.N. commission.

The United States has said it would send 1,200 troops to Kuwait and diplomats said Kuwait would like Britain and France to do the same. There was no word as to whether the two European states would do this.

But the envoys said this request was separate from any U.N. force in the demilitarised zone. These forces would not be drawn from any of the coalition partners that conducted the latest air raids over Iraq.

Clinton

(Continued from page 1)

new position of under-secretary for global affairs, with responsibility for environmental, human rights and refugees issues, the sources said. Mr. Wirth previously

was passed over for interior and energy secretary, two posts for which he lobbied.

Several of the selections, to be formally announced Tuesday, have been reported by the Associated Press previously. Others were reported in Tuesday

editions of the New York Times and confirmed by transition and congressional sources.

Other appointments said to be ready included:

— Time magazine editor Strobe Talbott, a Clinton classmate in the Rhodes scholar programme in the late 1960s, for a new post as special representative to the former Soviet republics.

— Lynn Davis, an arms control expert at the Rand Corporation, for under-secretary of state for international security affairs.

— Lynn Davis, an arms control expert at the Rand Corporation, for under-secretary of state for international security affairs.

Disquiet spreads among Gulf war allies

(Continued from page 1)

"Anyone with any common sense would be worried by the risks that the civilian population is being made to run."

Such unease posed Bill Clinton with a tricky job in the early days of his presidency of holding the allies together.

Mr. Clinton, who takes over from George Bush Wednesday, has said he fully supports the U.S. president's policy.

In the Hague, Dutch Foreign Minister Pieter Kooijmans backed the Western strikes, but tempered that support by saying the U.N. could lose credibility unless it took a similar stance on the fighting in the former Yugoslav republic of Bosnia.

Gulf governments have avoided public disagreement with U.S. policy on Iraq. But, aware of the depth of popular feeling against the attacks, they mostly kept quiet.

In Europe, France's government spokesman, asked to explain Paris's silence over the latest raids, hinted at the differences among allies over Sunday's U.S. cruise missile attack on a factory near Baghdad.

Louis Mermaz told France Inter Radio that action against Iraq should be "proportionate." He declined to elaborate, except to say he had expressed himself "clearly, if indirectly."

French left-wing socialist Jean-Pierre Chevènement, who resigned as defence minister to protest against the Gulf war, said the raids were "insane interventionism" taking place under the pretext of "military humanitarianism."

British Prime Minister John Major also faces growing political disquiet over the raids. Parliamentarians from the opposition Labour and Liberal Democrat parties were joined by some ruling Conservative politicians in expressing anxieties over whether the allies had a clear strategy to counter Baghdad.

A group of Labour members of parliament tabled a parliamentary motion condemning the bombing of Iraq, noting what it called "double standards whereby Iraq is attacked on the most minimal pretext, while Israel defies United Nations resolutions with impunity."

A senior official said the government had not yet received an expected request from Kuwait for more troops to police its Iraqi border, which has sparked fears of Britain being sucked into another Gulf war, but said it would be weighed carefully.

Although there was general backing for the strikes on Iraq so far, politicians urged Mr. Major to clarify his policy.

"There is overwhelming support in parliament (for the attacks)," said David Howell, Conservative chairman of parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee.

But he said: "People want an explanation of the end-game, what is the strategy, how to put pressure on Saddam from all sides... how to restore Middle East stability generally."

The Times newspaper said in an editorial it was time for a more thought-out approach to Iraq. "Narrowly defined military success... must not become a substitute for a strategy to bring President Saddam Hussein to heel," it said.

The opposition Labour Party, which has in principle backed the military strikes, called for more

explicit United Nations backing for the allied action.

"It's time for a pause," said Labour's foreign affairs spokesman Jack Cunningham. "I think we do need to be sure that decisions to launch military attacks on Iraq are decisions of the United Nations Security Council."

The archbishop of Canterbury, George Carey, and other Anglican leaders Tuesday expressed dismay over allied raids into Iraq, saying they threatened world peace.

"I hope they do not go beyond what they might consider preventative strikes," Archbishop Carey told a news conference in Cape Town.

He was joined at the press conference by Presiding Bishop Edmond Browning of the Episcopal Church in the United States; Irish Archbishop Robert Eames; Canon Colin Craston, chairman of the Anglican Consultative Council; Jerusalem Archbishop Samir Kafry; and South Africa's Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Archbishop Browning said American churches had regarded the Iraqi strikes "with great sadness."

"The concern must be the concern of the well-being of the people of Iraq. (The strikes) not only bring great harm to the people of Iraq, but to the stability of the Middle East," he said.

Archbishop Kafry of Jerusalem urged world leaders to pressure Israel to take back more than 400 expelled Palestinians.

"The deportees must be brought back. We hope the Anglican communion will plead with those who take decisions," he said.

The Vatican, lukewarm at best about the allied strikes in the Gulf, said it had agreed to an Iraqi request to ask the United Nations secretary-general to promote dialogue between Baghdad and Western powers to try to end the Gulf crisis.

The Pope opposed the Gulf war two years ago because he felt the world could have taken more diplomatic steps to avert it.

Iraq's ambassador to the Vatican, Wissam Shawkat Al Zahawi, Tuesday conferred with Vatican "Foreign Minister" Archbishop Jean-Louis Tauran. A statement issued afterwards said:

"In particular, he asked that the (Vatican) secretariat of state ask the secretary-general of the United Nations to work towards favouring a dialogue among the interested parties and the cessation of military actions."

It added: "The Holy See accepted the request, convinced that recourse to arms to impose one's will and one's political programmes can only lead to an increase in violence and to consequences that are not always controllable."

Politicians who opposed France's participation in the Gulf war weighed in with new criticism.

Communist leader Georges Marchais said attacks against Iraq "served George Bush's vainglory, worked against France's fundamental interests and ignored the spirit and letter of the U.N. Charter."

Extreme right-wing National Front leader Jean-Marie Le Pen, whose sympathies for Iraq shocked many of his own backers two years ago, said: "I am shocked that France feels obliged to serve as a moral guarantor for American military operations."

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

THE PROFESSIONALS ALWAYS CHOOSE THE RELIABLE

PACKING, AIR FREIGHT, FORWARDING, DOOR-TO-DOOR SERVICES AND DELIVERIES, CUSTOMS CLEARANCE, TICKETS AND RESERVATIONS.

AMIN KAHAR & SONS
TEL: 60476 60486
P.O. BOX 7806 AMMAN

CROWN INT'L EST.
Packing, shipping, forwarding, storage, clearing, door-to-door service
Air, Sea and Land

Agents all over the world
Tel: 664090
Fax: 690852
P.O. Box 926487 Amman

KARIS
KARIS CENTRE FOR YOUR SERVICE
YOUR BEST CHOICE IN JORDAN...

★ Karis Dryclean, 1 Hr. Service
★ Shoes repair ★ Engraving
★ Keys Service
★ Upholstery, curtains & carpets cleaning
6 Branches at YOUR Service
Mecca Street, behind Pizza Hut, phone 821656, Fax 828153

STUDIO HAIG
Professional Quality in 1 Hour Service
Develop your colour film at our shop and get:

★ **JUMBO photo size 20% larger**
★ **Free enlargement 20 x 30 cm**

Shmeisani - Opp. Grandtays Bank, Phone: 604442
Swefish tel: 823891

4 RENT & SALE
- Many villas and apartments are available for rent and sale, furnished or unfurnished.
- Also many plots of land are available for sale.

For further details, please call:
Abdoun Real Estate
Tel.: 810605/810309
Fax: 810520

MANDARIN RESTAURANT
Special Chinese Foods
Skilled Chinese Chefs
Open 11:30-3:30 & 6:00-11:30 daily
Take away is available
Wadi Saqra Road near Philadelphia Hotel
Tel. 661922, Amman
Once Tasted Always Loved

Kashmir Restaurant
FIRST CLASS INDIAN RESTAURANT
Special Executive Lunches
Take away service available
Open Daily 12:30-3:30 pm
7:30-11:30 pm
After the Philadelphia Hotel Towards 3rd circle
Tel: 659519 659520

For the Best for your MONEY ADVERTISE in the Jordan Times

PEKING RESTAURANT
AUTHENTIC CHINESE CUISINE
Elegant colorful atmosphere moderate prices
Shmeisani, tel: 604442
now open daily

CHEN'S CHINESE RESTAURANT
Mecca Street, Yarmouk Engineers' Housing Estate, near Kilo Supermarket
Mongolian Barbecue for Lunch Friday only
Tel: 818214
Come and taste our specialties
Open daily 12:00-3:30 p.m.
6:30-Midnight

RESTAURANT CHINA
The first & best Chinese Restaurant in Jordan
1st Circle, Jibal Amman, near Al-Nahla Girls School
Take away is available
Open daily 12:00-3:30 p.m.
7:00 - Midnight
Tel. 638968

Trio Krisola AL KHAIMA BAR
8:30 pm - 1:30 am

红房子餐厅
مطعم البيت الصيني
120 Authentic Chinese dishes, from all great regional cuisines styles of China.
Prepared by our Chinese chefs
Open daily for lunch & dinner
Take away service
Jabal Al Hussein Ministry of Trade & Industrial Rd.
Tel. 667755

Car-Rental Pick-up-delivery
8:00 - 24:00
Europcar
674111 Amman Plaza

Every great city in the world has its China Town and Amman now has its own.
Where you can enjoy the most exquisite Chinese dishes for lunch and dinner.
Banquet and take-away service
All chefs from Peking, China
China Town at the Amman Plaza Hotel
Tel 674295 or 674111 - ext 6336

The First Class Hotel in Amman that has a Kitchenette in every room..!
DAVOTEL
Amman - Tel 668193
P.O. Box 9403 - Fax 602434
Tel.: 23656 DARTLING
Ideal Residence For Expatriates and Businessmen

French Cuisine
RESERVATION
TEL 819564

Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close 18/1/93	Tokyo Close 19/1/93
Sterling Pound	1.5518	1.5535
Deutsche Mark	1.6135	1.6138
Swiss Franc	1.4770	1.4788
French Franc	5.4770	5.4600 **
Japanese Yen	125.45	126.46
European Currency Unit	1.2158	1.2169 **

USD Per JGD
Sharps Opening @ 8:50 A.M. GMT

Eurocurrency Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.06	3.18	3.37	3.75
Sterling Pound	6.75	6.94	6.69	6.50
Deutsche Mark	8.56	8.31	7.87	7.33
Swiss Franc	5.56	5.43	5.31	5.18
French Franc	11.00	10.75	10.12	9.12
Japanese Yen	3.81	3.68	3.56	3.37
European Currency Unit	9.87	9.87	9.56	8.87

Interest bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Commodity	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	329.05	6.45	Silver	3.69
				.080

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.687	0.689
Sterling Pound	1.0651	1.0704
Deutsche Mark	0.4252	0.4275
Swiss Franc	0.4644	0.4667
French Franc	0.1257	0.1263
Japanese Yen	0.5470	0.5497
Dutch Guilder	0.3783	0.3802
Swedish Krona	0.0954	0.0959
Italian Lira	0.0463	0.0465
Belgian Franc	0.02065	0.02075

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7930	1.8150
Lebanese Lira	0.03700	0.03875
Saudi Riyal	0.1829	0.1836
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2300	2.2870
Qatari Riyal	0.1860	0.1872
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7500	1.7720
UAE Dirham	0.1860	0.1872
Greek Drachma	0.3137	0.3237
Cypriot Pound	1.4290	1.4490

CAB Indices for Amman Financial Markets

Index	17/1/93	Close	18/1/93	Close
All-Share	184.04		185.21	
Banking Sector	132.35		134.23	
Insurance Sector	200.90		202.85	
Industry Sector	253.84		253.93	
Services Sector	251.18		251.81	

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One U.S. dollar	1.2773/78	Canadian dollar	1.6148/58
	1.8140/50	Deutsche marks	1.4815/25
	33.22/26	Dutch guilders	5.4600/50
	1483/1488	Swiss francs	125.40/50
	7.2200/30	French francs	6.8175/275
	6.2100/200	Italian lire	1.5445/55
	1.5445/55	Japanese yen	162.100/200
One sterling	1.5445/55	Swedish crowns	1.5445/55
One ounce of gold	\$328.90/329.40	Norwegian crowns	1.5445/55
		Danish crowns	1.5445/55

Finland seeks oil exploration partners in Gulf

ABU DHABI (R) — Finland is seeking oil exploration and petrochemical joint ventures with Gulf Arab states, which supply it with one-fifth of its oil requirements.

"We don't have oil in Finland so we have to go abroad. We had decided to try to find our oil share for our national needs from partnerships in this region," Reima Oksola, Gulf representative of Finnish oil firm Neste Corp., told Reuters.

Mr. Oksola said Finland imports 10 million tonnes (73 million barrels) of oil per year from the North Sea, Soviet Union and on the world market. Between 15 and 20 per cent of its oil imports come from Gulf Arab countries.

Neste Corporation is part of a delegation of Finnish companies accompanying Finland's Trade and Industry Minister Pekka Tuomisto on a tour of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.

Mr. Oksola said they met officials this week from Saudi Arabia Marketing and Refining Co., Saudi Aramco, and Kuwait Oil Co. to discuss joint oil and petrochemical projects.

Neste has joint exploration partnerships with Oman and the UAE emirates of Abu Dhabi and Sharjah, Mr. Oksola said. It also has a 10 per cent share in a fuel additive plant in Saudi Arabia.

"We have targeted this area for oil exploration, and possibly for partnerships in chemicals," Peter Flanigan, Neste engineering vice president, told a news conference in Abu Dhabi.

Mr. Flinlander later met officials from Abu Dhabi National Oil Co. (ADNOC) to discuss joint projects.

BIS finds developed states reining in external lending

BASLE, Switzerland (R) — Banks in major Western economies kept a tight rein on lending to outside countries in the first half of last year 1992, the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) said Tuesday.

The Basle-based bank for central banks said in a report that it had detected a trend not to renew maturing loans, and a shift towards less risky short-term, trade-related lending.

Nevertheless, total cross-border claims less repayments and domestic foreign currency claims on countries outside the

reporting area rose, unusually for a first half-year, by \$11.7 billion to \$693.1 billion.

The reporting area covers the Group of 10 largest industrial nations plus other major west European economies.

In eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union was the only area to record a rise in its bank debt. But the \$2.4 billion increase mostly reflected the accumulation of interest arrears and the withdrawal of money from existing unused facilities.

Lending to members of the Organisation of Petroleum Ex-

porting Countries (OPEC) rose (\$6.3 billion against \$1.7 billion in the previous half-year. The lion's share \$3.3 billion, went to Kuwait for post-Gulf war reconstruction.

A \$4.1 billion rise in outstanding claims on Latin America was the largest in eight years. Brazil received \$2.2 billion of new credits, Argentina \$1.2 billion and Chile \$900 million.

At the same time, a \$5.8 billion reduction of Latin American deposits in the BIS reporting area largely reflected the return home of flight capital.

New lending to non-OPEC

countries in Asia slowed to \$1.7 billion from \$13.8 billion in the previous half. South Korea was the destination of \$2.6 billion of new funds. Thailand of \$1.9 billion and Taiwan of \$1.1 billion.

Claims on China, which had risen by \$5.4 billion in the preceding half-year, fell \$1.9 billion in the first half of 1992 as a result of repayment of earlier short-term borrowing.

Claims on the Philippines fell by \$1.6 billion to \$7.1 billion, mainly owing to a \$1.3 billion debt buy-back agreed in May with creditor banks.

Bank of England: Reserve rules slow world lending

LONDON (AP) — A growth spurt in international banking turned into a contraction over the past three years as banks were required to keep more money on hand, the head of the Bank of England said Monday.

Mr. Robin Leigh-Pemberton, governor of the central bank, said the requirement for international banks generally to maintain capital holdings that equal eight per cent of their outstanding loans and investments, "has undoubtedly fueled a contraction in the international banking market, as measured by inter-bank transactions."

The reserve requirement reforms were announced by the Bank for International Settlements in 1988, and banks had to comply with them by the first of this year.

The Bank for International Settlements, which essentially acts as a bank for the world's central banks and helps set policy, was responding to problems

that developed in the mid 1980s, when aggressive lending, particularly on real estate projects, got many banks in trouble.

Mr. Leigh-Pemberton said the tighter reserve requirements posed few difficulties for British banks, because most already were operating with similar standards.

But many banks in other countries had to make "quite significant adjustments," Mr. Leigh-Pemberton said in an address to the Chartered Institute of Bankers in Glasgow, Scotland.

In the United States, many banks had to cut operating expenses as they limited loans to their best customers in a widely publicised credit crunch.

Mr. Leigh-Pemberton said international banking mushroomed to \$6.30 trillion in 1990 from \$360 billion in 1974, but that growth



Robin Leigh-Pemberton

has now given way to a decline. In June 1992, for which the most recent figures are available, the cross-border lending stood at \$6.16 trillion after dipping to \$6.22 trillion in 1991.

"Recent years... have seen something of a slow-down, even in some areas significant retrenchment," Mr. Leigh-Pemberton said.

Kuwait signs \$27.6m offset deal with Hughes

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait signed a \$27.6 million offset deal with Hughes Aircraft System International Sunday, the first under a programme obliging foreign companies to reinvest 30 per cent of their contracts back in the emirate.

A finance ministry statement said the deal was to offset a \$92 million contract won by Hughes last month to provide Kuwait with a ground-based early warning system.

It gave no details of Hughes' reinvestment in Kuwait.

Under Kuwait's offset programme, launched last July by decree from the council of ministers, foreign companies winning contracts worth more than one million dinars (\$3.3 million) are obliged to reinvest 30 per cent of the sum.

A finance ministry official told Reuters Kuwait would shortly sign similar offset deals worth \$120 million with U.S. firm Raytheon, manufacturers of Patriot missiles, and \$12 million with TCOM, an American early warning systems firm.

Privatisation battle starts in Ivory Coast

ABIDJAN (R) — Ivory Coast Prime Minister Alassane Ouattara began a vigorous defence of his privatisation plans in parliament Tuesday as the ruling party warned against a sell-out to foreign interests.

The backcloth to what promised to be a lengthy and perhaps acrimonious debate is the increasingly open contest between the prime minister and the president (speaker) of the national assembly, Henri Konan Bedie, Ivorian political sources said.

Both hope to succeed the country's 87-year-old head of state, Felix Houphouet-Boigny, who has promised to step down at the next elections in 1995.

Their chosen battle-field, Ivorian and diplomatic sources said, is the privatisation programme.

Mr. Ouattara, an international banker of repute before he was appointed premier in 1990, said privatising state-owned enterprises had become a worldwide phenomenon.

"Our country must not stay on the sidelines of this process which has contributed to the economic recovery of many nations, notably in Latin America," he told the assembly.

He said between 1982-88 enterprises in which the state had a majority stake had racked up losses of nearly 100 billion CFA francs (\$360 million), despite total government subsidies to the sector during that period of \$3.3 billion.

Mr. Ouattara said deficient management was the main cause of low productivity and profitability. The state budget, hit by low prices for its cocoa and coffee, could no longer bail out companies which ought to be profitable.

Mr. Ouattara has slated 54 companies for full or partial privatisation by 1995 with expected revenue accounting for 17 per cent of the 1993 investment budget.

This sum is considered highly optimistic by Western embassies, already concerned at the slow pace of privatisation. Lack of domestic investors and growing political concern about the sale of strategic economic sectors are blamed.

Mr. Ouattara has privatised five state-owned companies so far. The biggest involving the electricity utility EECI. After years of losses, its distribution and billing functions were handed in 1990 to CIE, a subsidiary of the French construction group Bouygues which also runs Ivory Coast's water utility and is a key partner in plans to exploit offshore natural gas.

Bouygues was not mentioned by name but there was no doubt it was targeted by Victor Amagou, speaking for the ruling PDCI party's parliamentary group. All but 10 of the assembly's 175 deputies are PDCI members, as are both Mr. Ouattara and Mr. Bedie.

China founds Sinoil to manage oil, gas

BEIJING (R) — China has founded a new state enterprise to manage its entire crude oil and natural gas business — from exploration, production and sales to imports and exports.

Xinhua News Agency said that Beijing wanted China National United Oil Corp (Sinoil) to become a major world player.

"It will compete in exploring the international market using domestic and international re-

sources and funds to transform itself into a global industrial conglomerate," the agency said.

The new company is jointly owned by the China National Petroleum Corp and the China National Chemicals Import and Export Corp.

The agency said the state council, or cabinet, had given Sinoil the independent right to handle imports and exports and make investments overseas.

Iraq says it lost \$44 billion of oil exports

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said Tuesday losses resulting from a U.N. embargo on its oil exports mounted to \$44 billion by the end of last June.

"The economic losses suffered by Iraq as a result of the suspension of oil and oil product exports from August 1990 to the end of June 1992 reached \$44 billion," the government newspaper Al Jumhuriyah, said quoting an oil ministry source.

The United Nations imposed trade sanctions on Iraq soon after its Aug. 2, 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Trade is still blocked, apart from imports of food and medicine.

The source said Iraq's total production prior to U.N. sanctions was 3.25 million barrels per day (b/d) of which 2.75 million was for export. Its pre-sanctions OPEC production quota was 3.1 million b/d.

Gulf war bombing inflicted damage worth \$1.9 billion on oil installations, the source said.

Oil Minister Usama Al Hiti said Saturday that Iraq could produce three million b/d this year and aims to double that capacity by the year 2000.

France boosts cigarette tax 15%

PARIS (AP) — France increased taxes on cigarettes 15 per cent Monday, the first installment of a 30 per cent hike to discourage smoking and pay health care for smoking-related illnesses.

The tax hike came 2 1/2 months after the government imposed tough laws barring smoking from public buildings and the workplace and forcing restaurants and cafes to create no-smoking zones.

The tax increase will boost the price of a pack of Gauloises, France's famed black-tobacco cigarette, from 6.4 francs (\$1.16) to 7.5 francs (\$1.36), according to France's state-owned tobacco company, SEITA.

Imported American cigarettes, which already cost nearly 12 francs (\$2.18), are not expected to increase as much, with the tobacco companies taking the difference from their profit margins.

The increased revenue will help the financially strapped social security service to pay the costs of smoking-related illnesses, and to subsidise the auto-racing industry, a victim of a new ban on cigarette advertising.

The tax will be raised another 15 per cent by the end of 1993. The cigarette tax hike is twinned with a 5-centime (1-cent) per litre tax increase on gasoline.

Jordan Times
Tel: 667171

PASSPORT LOST

I. Paramjit Singh, have lost my Indian passport No. W 046055.
If found please contact Indian Embassy on tel. no. 637262CAR FOR SALE
Duty UnpaidFord Sierra, 1984, 1600cc, colour golden shapien, 2 doors, very good condition, price \$3,000. NEGOTIABLE.
Call 05/553322 Salt.FOR SALE
American dining room
Call tel. 829312

Furnished House For Rent

Spacious, centrally located house in Shmeisani available for rent: Six bedrooms plus a maid's room; six bathrooms, extensive reception area and guest rooms, central heating with an air conditioning unit, plus telephone, carpeting and garden. Annual rent.
If interested, please call 679107

Cinema Tel: 677420

CONCORD

Kevin Costner and Whitney Houston

BODYGUARD

Shows: 12.30, 3.15, 6.00, 8.30, 10.30

Free Car Parking

Tel: 675571

Nabli Al Mashini Theatre

Tuesday January 5th marks the opening of the new theatre season presenting:

Pandemonium (Ta'a wa Qaimah)

Daily at 8:30 p.m.

Tickets office open all day

Cinema Tel: 634144

PHILADELPHIA

Patrick Swayze and Demi Moore in

GHOST

Shows: 12.30, 3.30, 6.15, 8.30, 10.30

Th. + Fr. special show for children at 11:00

The Fox And The Hound

Tel: 625155

AHLAN THEATRE

"Welcome New World Order"

Play will reappear in a new presentation on Jan. 25, 1993 following the theatre's holiday Happy New Year

Bosnia's rebel Serbs face crucial war-or-peace vote on Geneva plan

PALE, Bosnia (R) — Bosnia's rebel Serbs faced a crucial vote Tuesday to endorse or reject an international settlement plan, a decision their leaders call a choice between peace or war.

The plan, drawn up in Geneva, is a blueprint for a post-war Bosnia divided into 10 autonomous provinces. The European Community last week warned the Bosnian Serbs to accept it by Tuesday — or face unspecified U.N. punitive action.

Deputies to the Bosnian Serbs' self-styled parliament said the vote might hasten the end of a nine-month war, but they would not abandon a long-term dream of creating their own state.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic has already endorsed the plan. But he faces opposition from radicals who insist on creating a Serb state within a state, already rejected by Geneva mediators.

The parliamentary session was due to start late in the afternoon (1500 GMT) in this picturesque ski resort, only 16 kilometres from the war-torn Bosnian capital of Sarajevo.

First item on the agenda was a government reshuffle which, sources close to Mr. Karadzic said, was intended to enable easier adoption and implementation of the Geneva peace plan.

"Karadzic is bolstering his position by circling himself with moderates," said one source who asked not to be named.

Mr. Karadzic's supporters say their main task is to persuade the radicals to accept the Geneva peace plan now — and resume their campaign for their own state after fighting ends.

"What we must now do is to convince the radicals to relinquish their dream of establishing a Serb state in Bosnia right now so we can survive, and have one later — rather than risking obli-

vion and never having it," Health Minister Dragan Kalinic told Reuters.

"We must not do anything to provoke the U.S. or NATO to attack us, they are far too superior, but we must fight for our state with wisdom," he said, adding that radicals make up about 30 per cent of the 87-member assembly.

His view was echoed by Parliamentary President Momcilo Krajisnik.

"We must tread between the possible and the desired," he told Serbian Television.

Mr. Karadzic has the backing of Yugoslav President Dobrica Cosic and Serbia's President Slobodan Milosevic, both anxious to end a U.N. embargo imposed on Serbia for its part in the war in Bosnia.

Within Bosnia, Mr. Karadzic also has the support of powerful military leaders Ratko Mladic and Momir Talic.

But deputies from Foca, where Serb Television recently reported a big massacre of Serbs by Muslims, rejected any concessions to their rivals.

"We cannot accept any divisions. We have no rights to accept it in the name of our 300 dead and 700 wounded," the Serb Democratic Party of Foca said in a statement.

Mr. Kalinic said the hardest task would be to allay any feelings of betrayal harboured by Bosnian Serbs on the frontline.

"We must convince the soldiers and their families that their comrades and sons and daughters have not died for nothing. This will be very, very hard," Mr. Kalinic said.

Meanwhile, fresh casualties were reported in Muslim-Serb clashes in Bosnia and the embattled Muslim-led government said Tuesday it faced a new threat

from Croat forces in the war-ravaged former Yugoslav republic.

The Serb-besieged capital Sarajevo was enjoying a relative lull, with electricity and water gradually returning to parts of the city, and the water queues starting to vanish.

Laundry appeared on the balconies of apartment blocks in parts of the city as weeks of dirty clothes finally got washed.

Sarajevo Radio opened its broadcast with excerpts from an interview by Bosnia's Muslim President Alija Izetbegovic asking Croat forces to stop attacking Bosnian army units.

He called it a "new and separate aggression on Bosnia parallel to Serb aggression," and said the Bosnian leadership would meet to decide on whether to send a formal protest to the United Nations Security Council over the Croat attacks.

The army of rump Yugoslavia — comprising Serbia and Montenegro — claimed it killed a number of Bosnian Muslim troops in two incidents along the Bosnian-Serbian border on Monday, Belgrade-based Tanjug news agency said.

Muslim-Serb battles have raged in the border area along the River Drina, mainly centred around the Bosnian town of Skelani, for a week. Belgrade accuses the Muslims of escalating the war in order to wreck a peace plan proposed in Geneva.

Muslim forces fired nine mortar rounds from the Bosnian village of Kunjarac at the Serbian village of Grabovica Monday, Tanjug quoted a Yugoslav army statement as saying.

"Enemy weapons and troops were destroyed immediately. Our side suffered no wounded or material damage," it said.

The army statement said seven

Muslims were killed later in the day when they tried to cross the frontier Drina River by boat. It said the army would respond energetically to attacks.

It quoted a doctor as saying 21 dead Serbs and 69 wounded from Skelani had been brought to the Serbian town of Bajina Basta since Saturday.

Fighting has also flared between Muslim and Croat forces in west and central Bosnia over the past week in an apparent rush to grab territory before an internationally-brokered peace settlement is sealed.

Referring to Croat demands for control over Bosnian forces in some areas and the resulting fighting, Mr. Izetbegovic said:

"This is the plan of people who have lost their minds," adding that the government knew the names of "war criminals" responsible for the attacks and that "they will be punished."

"We will meet and consider sending this case to the Security Council, to ask that this new aggression against Bosnia-Herzegovina be punished and that sanctions be made... We didn't want this, but we are at the end of the road and we don't have any other choice," Mr. Izetbegovic said.

The Bosnian government held a crisis session Tuesday to discuss the outbreak of fighting with their Croat allies and said international mediator Lord Owen had suggested both sides meet to calm the situation.

Bosnian Foreign Minister Haris Silajdzic said Lord Owen had telephoned during the three-hour session to suggest talks which he would be willing to attend.

"We spoke with Lord Owen and he is suggesting that everybody comes to Sarajevo to try and resolve this problem," Mr. Silajdzic told reporters.



Masako Owada smiles for photographers in Tokyo (AFP photo)

Japan palace approves Naruhito's engagement

TOKYO (R) — Japan's future empress said Tuesday she agonised over giving up her promising diplomatic career for a cloistered palace life and agreed only when the crown prince vowed to back her through difficult times.

While Japan welcomed confirmation that Crown Prince Naruhito, 32, had finally found a princess after years of searching, the prospective bride, Masako Owada, revealed the decision had not been easy.

"I was given a lot of responsibility by the Foreign Ministry, and I agonised over the decision of whether to give up my work (for marriage)," she told a news conference after the palace officially announced her engagement to the prince.

"I was worried about life in the palace (as recently as) last November," said the multilingual Masako, educated at Harvard and Oxford universities.

"But his highness, who knew about my concerns, promised me that he would protect me with all his might," she said.

Ms. Masako, who had kept Prince Naruhito waiting for eight months, said she finally decided to accept his proposal in early December after he confided that he too was worried she might not be happy inside the palace.

The 29-year-old Masako, daughter of Vice Foreign Minister Hisashi Owada, will become the first career woman and only the second commoner to marry an heir to the ancient chrysanthemum throne. Her future mother-in-law, Empress Michiko, is the daughter of a wealthy industrialist.

The daughters of some of Japan's best families, including Ms. Masako, reportedly shunned the idea of trading their freedom for a life within the confines of the tradition-bound palace.

Only too vivid in the memory of most Japanese is the plight of Empress Michiko. A beautiful debutante when she married in 1959, she grew gaunt and visibly unhappy under what media reports said were snubs by stuffy palace officials and her aristocratic mother-in-law, the current empress dowager.

Prince Naruhito said Ms. Masako would not face the same trials.

"That was more than 30 years ago and I don't think that Masako will have a difficult time," he said. "But if she does have problems, I will be at her side to back her up."

Prince Naruhito denied reports that his mother had played a role in overriding opposition by palace courtiers to the choice of Masako.

"The emperor and empress left the decision of who I would wed

entirely up to me," he said. "The empress has never made her feelings known."

Ms. Masako, who is one centimetre (less than half an inch) taller than Prince Naruhito's 1.63 metres (5 ft 4 inches), appeared to have already made the transition from a suit and briefcase to staid palace fashion. She wore a yellow pillbox hat and matching satin dress and shoes at her first news conference with Prince Naruhito.

Grand Steward Shioichi Fujimori, head of the palace, formally announced the marriage plans Tuesday and disclosed details of the events leading up to the royal engagement.

He said Prince Naruhito first became interested in Ms. Masako in 1986 and dated her four times over the next 18 months until the palace, concerned about Ms. Masako's family background, put an end to the budding romance.

The palace worried that her maternal grandfather, Yutaka Egashira, had been president of Chisso Corp, responsible for the huge Minamata environmental pollution case of the 1960s.

Mr. Fujimori said that after failing to find a suitable candidate for prince by May 1992, desperate palace matchmakers decided that Ms. Masako would do after all.

"We had made efforts to select a princess but they did not lead to anything that would satisfy the prince," he said.

Ms. Masako's father, the Foreign Ministry's top civil servant, said he hoped his daughter would be able to use her experience as a diplomat after her marriage, expected in early June.

"I will be very happy if her experience at the Foreign Ministry becomes useful in one form or another in her future life," Ms. Owada told reporters at the Ministry.

Some palace aides are reportedly concerned that the confident Masako, who has spent half her life living abroad, will not adapt to the role of crown princess, which includes taking part in obscure religious rites and always walking several paces behind her husband.

Ms. Masako, described as a brilliant student, graduated with honours in economics from Harvard in 1985. After a stint at Tokyo University's elite Law School, she was only one of three women among 28 candidates selected to enter the Foreign Ministry as a fast-track diplomat in 1987.

The ministry sent her to Oxford University in 1988 for two years and, on her return, put her to work handling sensitive Japanese-U.S. trade negotiations.

Angolan oil plants under rebel attack

LUANDA (R) — Angola's vital oil plants came under UNITA attack and diplomats reported heavy fighting Tuesday for rebel headquarters in the central highlands city of Huambo.

Diplomats said they believed UNITA rebels were encircling the northwestern oil town of Soyo after attacks on installations which prompted the evacuation of scores of foreign oil workers and their families.

They said fighting still raged in the central provincial capital of Luena and at Menongue in the south, and UNITA forces were advancing towards Saurimo in the diamond-rich north. Thousands of men were battling for control of the country's second city, Huambo.

"Both sides are throwing whatever explosives they've got at Huambo," said one diplomat. "It appears UNITA has the upper hand. The city is key to the whole struggle for control and will be reduced to gravel when they're done."

At Soyo at the mouth of the Zaire (Congo) River, scores of foreign nationals linked to three big oil companies — Texaco, Elf Exploration Angola, and Elf Petroleum Angola — had been safely evacuated to boats offshore, diplomats said.

State media said a French mechanic was killed Monday after his helicopter was fired on in Soyo, the mainly offshore oil town which accounts for more than a quarter of Angola's 500,000 barrels per day oil output, its main export.

The media said all foreign staff at Kwanda and Kinfukena bases had been evacuated, halting production at the two sites.

It said UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) forces with support from white and Zairean mercenaries had stolen food and vehicles from Fina's Camp Eight and destroyed Pangala Park.

The diplomats said Soyo's oil industry was particularly vulnerable because much of its petroleum was bunched onshore. They believed UNITA late last week had damaged some wells about 20 to 25 kilometres from the town.

"The government has not been very successful in expelling UNITA from the area, but it appears that UNITA has not taken the town," said one diplomat.

The government was rushing by sea military reinforcements from the country's main offshore oil area, Cabinda, north of the Zaire River to defend Soyo.

The government said about 10,000 UNITA men were surrounding Huambo and a Sukhoi fighter plane was shot down Monday. The pilot was presumably captured by UNITA, it said.

UNITA says more than 500 people have died in bitter fighting over the past week and that government forces have driven back and cannot defend themselves much longer.

The ruling Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) and UNITA signed a peace accord in May 1991 which briefly ended their 16-year civil war in the former Portuguese colony and paved the way for the country's first multi-party elections.

But UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi rejected the results of the September poll which he lost and began expelling local authorities from some 70 per cent of the country.



Queen, Charles taken ill

LONDON (AP) — Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Charles were taken ill Monday and cancelled their appointments, Buckingham Palace said. The queen called off a reception for elderly people and estate workers at Sandringham, where she spends the Christmas-New Year holidays.

Prince Charles had viral gastroenteritis and a high temperature, the palace said. The same virus had affected five other people at Sandringham, where Prince Charles was staying, but the palace did not say whether the queen was among those infected. Palace officials said Prince Charles cancelled his engagements on doctors' advice, calling it a precautionary measure and saying the illness was not serious.

Police search for missing Miss Whiplash

LONDON (R) — Britain's most famous prostitute, Lindi St Clair, has gone missing after threatening to expose politicians and officials who had paid her for sexual favours. Police called off a helicopter search Monday at the base of a notorious cliff-top suicide spot at Beachy Head in southern England where her parked and locked Jaguar car was found.

Fears for her safety grew when St Clair, who is known as Miss Whiplash, and leads a fringe political group called the Corrective Party failed to keep an appointment with journalists at the weekend in nearby Brighton to discuss her "dirt file" on politicians. Facing a £112,000 (£173,200) tax bill, she was reported last week in the local paper, the Brighton Evening Argus, as saying she was going to name those who had been among clients at her sex and bondage chamber. "We have got to keep an open mind. We have got a car parked at a notorious suicide spot. We know who the occupant is. There are certain reasons why she could be threatened. We have got to establish where she is and how she is," a police spokesman said.

One possibility being considered is that the disappearance could be a publicity stunt. Mr. St Clair, who launched her autobiography *It's Only a Game* — "The Game is British slang for prostitution" — last September, is an outrageous self-publicist and says she has had sex with 20,000 people, including more than 200 members of parliament. She has not named any of the MPs.

Swiss MP gets 45 nights in jail

ZURICH (R) — Swiss politician Andreas Gross will lead a double life for six weeks — spending his nights in jail as a convict and his days in parliament as an elected deputy. A court has so ruled because the MP refused to serve two days a year in the Swiss Civil Defence Corps which maintains the neutral nation's network of underground fallout shelters.

The court said Mr. Gross, a Social Democrat and leader of a group calling for the disbanding of the Swiss army, would spend 45 nights in jail for his refusal, but be allowed to attend parliament during the day. Mr. Gross, whose sentence begins from mid-September, must also spend weekends behind bars. He contested the ruling in Switzerland's highest court, arguing that civil defence is an unnecessary relic of the cold war, but his appeals failed. "This is another case of a Swiss anachronism," Mr. Gross told reporters.

Armenians keep warm by burning Communist classics

MOSCOW (R) — Armenians are burning tonnes of Communist literature to keep warm as fuel stocks in the former Soviet republic plummet to increasingly desperate levels, the local Snark News Agency said. Residents of the capital Yerevan started burning their libraries last year as shortages of gas and firewood began to bite. Theoretical journals and newspapers were among the first to go. "In these circumstances, special preference is being given to complete works of the classics of Marxism-Leninism, which because of their hard covers burn longer and give off more warmth," the agency said.

The Transcaucasian state's energy problems stem mostly from a blockade of gas supplies from neighbouring Azerbaijan, with which Armenia has been fighting an undeclared war over a disputed territory. Unrest in Georgia and the northern Caucasus has worsened shortages by disrupting oil and gas supplies from Russia.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Haitians boycott election

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (R) — Haitians largely boycotted parliamentary elections Monday as the military gave mixed signals on whether it was ready to negotiate a U.N.-sponsored settlement to Haiti's political crisis. Army Lieutenant General Raoul Cedras said in an interview broadcast on independent Radio Metropole that the military opposed the return of ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. He spoke as the military-backed government proceeded with the election despite appeals by foreign diplomats to postpone the vote pending progress in the U.N.-brokered negotiations. Haitian voters largely heeded opposition calls to ignore the elections, which critics said were designed to favour the existing de facto government. Gen. Cedras, an organiser of the coup that deposed Mr. Aristide in September 1991, appeared to move away from a U.N.-backed framework for negotiations reached over the weekend. Special U.N. envoy Dante Caputo Sunday announced a breakthrough in negotiations with the army and military-backed civilian government. Mr. Caputo said each had given him a letter affirming their support for talks aimed at restoring democracy, and for the deployment of up to 500 international observers to monitor human rights.

Khmer Rouge frees 4 U.N. personnel

PHNOM PENH (R) — Khmer Rouge guerrillas on Tuesday freed four U.N. peacekeeping personnel held for two days in central Cambodia, a U.N. spokesman said. The four men, a British naval lieutenant-commander, a British Royal Marines sergeant, a Chilean Marine lieutenant and a Cambodian interpreter, were safe and well, said Eric Falt, spokesman for the U.N. peacekeeping operation in Cambodia. The peacekeepers were members of a naval observer team, the latest of several groups of U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) personnel detained and then released by the Khmer Rouge since early December. They were held at midday Sunday while heading for a pre-arranged meeting with a local Khmer Rouge commander in central Kompong Thom province, scene of most of the detentions and the worst ceasefire violations since the signing of Cambodian peace accords in October 1991.

Shuttle lands in Florida

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — The space shuttle Endeavour and its five astronauts returned to Earth Tuesday after a six-day mission that helped prepare for building a space station and fire youngsters' imaginations. The spaceship sailed through a

hazy sky and landed at the Kennedy Space Centre at 1337 GMT. A red, white and blue drag chute slowed its roll down the concrete runway. "Welcome home. Congratulations on a super flight and a great start to the shuttle '93 manifest," mission control's Kevin Chilton told the crew.

Rebels press attack in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (R) — Tamil rebels killed five securitymen guarding a village in eastern Sri Lanka Tuesday, taking the death toll in the district to 29 over the past 24 hours, military sources said. Three soldiers and two village guards were killed in the shooting at Athawathawewa village in Mullaitivu district. Three soldiers were injured. "There is unusually a lot of rebel activity in the Mullaitivu district," one officer said, adding that separatist rebels could not penetrate the army defence and get into the village. The sources said they believed Tamil Tiger guerrillas carried out the attack in retaliation for the death of a senior commander in a suicide explosion aboard a ship that was intercepted by the Indian Navy last week. The rebels ambushed an army patrol Monday, killing 14 soldiers in the same cluster of villages. The military said 10 rebels were killed in the ensuing battle.

Restaurant fire kills 30 in Taiwan

TAIPEI (AP) — A pre-dawn fire swept through an unlicensed restaurant filled with diners in downtown Taipei Tuesday, killing 30 people and injuring 21 others, firemen reported. The death toll was the highest from a fire-related disaster in Taiwan since 1979 when 34 people died in a gas explosion at a Taipei residential block caused by a fire. The Taipei Police Chief, Chen Hsueh-Lien, said police were investigating whether the fire at the talking about Love Restaurant was deliberately set. The fire began at the restaurant's main entrance about 2 a.m. (1800 GMT Monday), trapping about 60 customers and employees, police said. The restaurant's two other exits were locked and blocked by furniture, police said.

Reputed superboss denies mafia membership

ROME (R) — Salvatore "toto" Riina, the reputed superboss of the mafia empire, has denied any involvement in the crime organisation, Italian newspapers said Tuesday. "I am not the monster that you think, that everyone thinks," he was quoted as saying during questioning by magistrates. "That monster does not exist. What really exists is what you have before you, your honour, a poor, sick old man." "Your honour, I have never been part of cosa nostra," the 62-year-old Riina said.

Inaugural hoopla plunges Clinton into trial by fire

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — America changes leaders with pomp and razzle-dazzle Wednesday, plunging Bill Clinton into a world of crises, blazing guns and fateful decisions.

The former governor of Arkansas becomes leader of the world's chief superpower, inheriting a pile of woes different from the campaign issues when he defeated President George Bush last November.

Mr. Bush, a World War II veteran, hands over power and a trial by fire to the third-youngest U.S. president and the first from the post-war "baby boom" generation.

William Jefferson Clinton, 46, led his party back to the White House with a campaign geared to one wry slogan, declaring the top issue: "The economy, stupid."

All the economic problems that helped him oust Republican Bush — runaway deficits, a sluggish though stirring economy, unemployment — remain for Mr. Clinton, who once promised to unveil a recovery programme the day after he took office but is now backing off that pledge.

As Mr. Clinton finishes his one-sentence oath to "preserve,

protect and defend the constitution of the United States, so help me God," a key military aide in the crowd will instantly turn from the old president to the new one.

Attached to his wrist is a locked satchel known as "the football." It contains the codes a president can use to start nuclear war. The ever-present "doomsday" kit is a reminder for Mr. Clinton that his headaches now are global.

U.S. and allied warplanes hit Iraqi targets and shot down Iraqi planes barely 48 hours before his inaugural in a clash that has escalated from words to weapons in one week.

Americans were treated to alternating televised spectacles of anti-aircraft fire sparkling above Baghdad and fireworks sparkling above Washington.

As Iraqis sounded attack alarms, Mr. Clinton's 12-year-old daughter, Chelsea, rang a symbolic liberty bell with a crimson cord.

The revived Iraqi crisis only barely overshadowed the drama of U.S. troops patrolling lawless Somalia, a civil war in wintry Bosnia, and Haitians clamouring

for U.S. asylum against a stern no-go policy invoked by Mr. Bush — and now, in a turnabout, by Mr. Clinton too.

Less vivid but possibly even more crucial were the tasks of promoting a solvent and stable post-Communist Russia and restarting a stalled Middle East peace process.

None of this stopped America from partying. Mr. Clinton, wife Hillary, Vice President Al Gore and their families soaked up the adulation of hundreds of thousands of well-wishers at celebrations in an inaugural dubbed "an American reunion."

But the backdrop of pressing international crisis gave this inaugural a tension its own. Just as Mr. Clinton sought to concentrate on domestic policy, it seemed as if international events were calling to Washington: "The world, stupid."

If that message is too faint, Mr. Clinton need only look at his predecessor for a hint of the pressures of his new job.

Mr. Bush, at 68 usually vigorous and athletic, has developed a deeply creased, haggard look. He seems weary, and perhaps bitter,

For him, the end of 35-year political career will come to an end at midday (1700 GMT) Wednesday, followed by a ride to retirement in Texas aboard a jetliner formerly designated Air Force One.

A glittering presidential gala is planned for Tuesday night with a Hollywood razzmatazz Ronald Reagan might envy, including such stars as Barbra Streisand and Jack Nicholson.

Mr. Clinton and Mr. Bush will launch oath-taking formalities together, with a traditional cup of coffee at the White House and a ride in the armoured presidential limousine to Capitol Hill.

First Mr. Gore, a 44-year-old former Tennessee senator, and then Mr. Clinton will take their oaths.

Then Mr. Clinton will deliver an inaugural address marking the passing of a generational torch from leaders forged in the experience of the great depression and World War II to those from the free-wheeling, free-loving, protest-oriented sixties.

The Clintons will watch the inauguration day parade — a gaudy stream of Americana — from a reviewing stand outside the

White House.

After a night of ballroom dancing, Mr. Clinton can settle down in the Oval Office, its walls bare of Bush mementoes but its big mahogany desk piled high with his leftover problems.

Americans, by more than two to one, now have a more favourable opinion of Mr. Clinton than they did before his November election, according to two new polls released Monday.

A CBS News/New York Times poll said 45 per cent questioned have a good opinion of Mr. Clinton while 19 per cent rate him unfavourably. Before the election, 40 per cent rated him favourably while 41 per cent did not.

An ABC News/Washington Post poll of 1,510 adults with a three percentage point margin of error had similar findings.

It said 68 per cent viewed Mr. Clinton favourably, up 12 points since the election, 60 per cent liked his cabinet choices and 81 per cent approved of his handling of the transition.

Over half feel he will do a better job than George Bush, compared to 23 per cent who

thought that Mr. Bush would do better than former President Ronald Reagan.

The CBS/New York Times poll showed that 57 per cent believe Mr. Clinton will be able to bring about needed changes, up from 41 per cent before the election.

By more than three to one, Americans are optimistic about what Mr. Clinton will accomplish in office and 59 per cent believe he will be able to improve the economy against 31 per cent who think it is beyond his control.

The poll said foreign policy remains Mr. Clinton's weakest suit.

Although 49 per cent now think he can handle an international crisis, up from 27 per cent before the election, this does not approach the kind of confidence Americans have always had in Mr. Bush, the poll said.

It added that two out of five Americans are still uneasy about Mr. Clinton's capabilities in such a crisis.

The CBS/New York Times poll of 1,179 adults was conducted by telephone on Jan. 12 to 14 and had a three per cent margin of error.

Meanwhile, as the days dwindled to hours, George Bush — the man with the golden resume — was ready to relinquish his presidency and step out of the government career that occupied a third of his life.

His departure ends a 12-year Republican hold on the White House that both opened and closed against a backdrop of U.S. consternation and peril in the Middle East. Former President Jimmy Carter's nemesis was Iran; Bush's is Iraq.

Returning Monday from his last weekend at Camp David, Md., as the nation's commander-in-chief, Mr. Bush saluted the military, U.S. allies, and his Democratic successor for bonding together behind his punitive strikes against Iraq.

"They did the right thing. We did the right thing," he said. "I again thank our new president for his strong support."

It was a federal holiday and the White House staff — already trimmed by resignations — was sparse. But the Bush loyalists came out to greet the president and his wife.

"Good-bye, Mr. President" someone shouted.